

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **LAND PLANES** forced down at sea may now be equipped with a device which automatically opens a hatch, inflates a rubber boat, and ejects it ready for use. A switch is thrown when the plane's belly hits the water, this releases compressed carbon dioxide which forces open the hatch and inflates the life-raft in seven or eight seconds.

Science News Letter, February 13, 1943

⚙️ **A NEW TYPE** of fluorescent light recently patented is circular in shape. Smaller concentric tubes can be attached easily to the same fixture, it is claimed. The light is designed for use in an ordinary lamp socket.

Science News Letter, February 13, 1943

⚙️ **A COMPACT** industrial refrigeration device produces a cooling effect equal to the melting of millions of pounds of ice every day. It should have various war uses, the manufacturer points out, such as cooling of machine tools, refrigeration of spot welding machines, and temperature control in production of instruments and lenses.

Science News Letter, February 13, 1943

⚙️ **PLASTIC LUNCH BOXES** replace the old ones made of metal. Guards at war plants can inspect the transparent boxes without pawing over the contents. They are easy to keep clean and will not dent or chip. The new lunch box is



opened on the end by pressing small knobs, as shown in the picture.

Science News Letter, February 13, 1943

⚙️ **INVISIBLE WORK** gloves are put on by spreading a new cream over the skin, which dries to a protective film. It is used to protect the hands of industrial workers against irritation and infection.

Science News Letter, February 13, 1943

⚙️ **SPOILED APPLES** can be prevented by spraying the trees with a fruit spray, which keeps apples "glued" to their branches. Experiments have shown that the number of apples which fall to the ground can be reduced by 50 per cent if they are sprayed before harvest time with 10 parts of naphthalene acetic acid to one million parts of water.

Science News Letter, February 13, 1943

• Glances at New Books •

➤ **VIOLETS** will soon be blooming again; if you would know the names of these attractive neighbors who live in your particular region, look in **WILD VIOLETS OF NORTH AMERICA** (*Univ. of Calif. Press*, \$10) for full, accurate, plain-English descriptions, faced by some of the finest full-page color illustrations that have ever been put into a botany book, done by the well-known artist, F. Schuyler Mathews. This volume will be useful alike to botanists, gardeners and seriously interested laymen. The author, appropriately enough, bears the name of the genus she so excellently describes: Viola Brainerd Baird.

Science News Letter, February 13, 1943

➤ **MILLIONS OF MEN** who once lived sheltered lives are now spending their time outdoors under the hardest possible conditions. War makes even the left-behinds climate-conscious, too, if only vicariously. These and kindred considerations will insure an interested audience for Thomas A. Blair's **CLIMATOLOGY, GENERAL AND REGIONAL** (*Prentice-Hall*, \$5). The author should know whereof he speaks, for he is a Senior Meteorologist of the U. S. Weather Bureau, besides being a professor of meteorology at the University of Nebraska.

Science News Letter, February 13, 1943

⚙️ **A NEW AUTOMATIC** recorder has been developed to detect flaws in engines and structures, such as aircraft. The recorder makes diagrams showing elastic qualities and internal friction of the object under test. If the diagram varies from the standard tracing for the object tested, there is a defect. Nature of the defect may be interpreted from the shape of the diagram. In principle this test is the same as the thousand-year-old test for detecting flaws in chinaware by striking the rim and listening to the resultant sound.

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If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 143.

Books of the Week

- THE ANATOMY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM: From the Standpoint of Development and Function**—Stephen Walter Ranson—*Saunders*, 520 p., illus., \$6.50; seventh edition, revised.
- AN ANNOTATED CHECK LIST OF THE GASTROPODS OF CAPE ARAGO, OREGON**—A. Myra Keen and Charlotte L. Doty—*Oregon State College*, 16 p., 25c.
- CALCULUS MADE EASY**—Silvanus P. Thompson—*Macmillan*, 301 p., illus., \$2, 2d ed. "Being a very simplest introduction to those beautiful methods of reckoning which are generally called by the terrifying names of the Differential Calculus and the Integral Calculus".
- EVERYDAY SCIENCE**—Otis W. Caldwell and Francis D. Curtis—*Ginn*, 664 p., illus., \$1.96. Textbook.
- FAMILY TREASURES: A Study of the Inheritance of Normal Characteristics in Man**—David D. Whitney—*Jaques Cattell*, 299 p., illus., \$3.50.
- THE FARMER CITIZEN AT WAR**—Howard R. Tolley—*Macmillan*, 318 p., \$2.50.
- FUNDAMENTALS OF ELECTRICITY: A Pre-induction Course**—Fred R. Miller—*Heath*, 220 p., illus., \$1.
- GENERAL ZOOLOGY**—Tracy I. Storer—*McGraw-Hill*, 797 p., illus., \$3.75.
- GEOLOGY OF NORTH CENTRAL OREGON**—Edwin T. Hodge—*Oregon State College*, 76 p., illus., 75c.
- KEY TO THE NESTS OF PACIFIC COAST BIRDS**—Elmo Stevenson—*Oregon State College*—71 p., illus., 50c.
- ODD NUMBERS OR ARITHMETIC REVISITED**—Herbert McKay—(*Cambridge*)—*Macmillan*, 215 p., illus., \$2.
- SOURCE MATERIAL ON THE HISTORY AND ETHNOLOGY OF THE CADDO INDIANS**—John R. Swanton—*Govt. Print. Off.*, 332 p., illus., 75c. (Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 132).
- TEXTBOOK OF BIOCHEMISTRY**—Benjamin Harrow—*Saunders*, 537 p., illus., \$4, 3rd edition.