

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **POWERFUL PORTABLE** searchlights with a strength of 110,000 beam candle-power and a weight, including batteries, of twelve and a half pounds, are available for military and civilian use. Objects may be seen a half mile away. The battery cells are made of a transparent plastic.

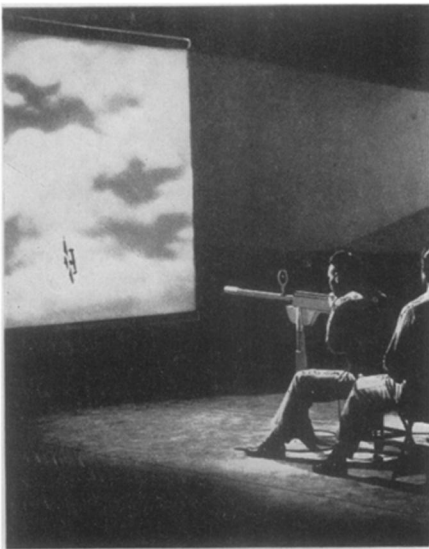
Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

⚙️ **HEAVY GUN TUBES** made from seamless steel tubing is a war development which saves much time and material. By this method a single production line turns out over 6,000 tubes for 75 and 40 millimeter guns in a month. It replaces the old standard forging method.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

⚙️ **MOVIES** of acrobatic warplanes complete with battle sounds provide elusive targets for aviation gunners in training. The photograph shows a gunner learning to keep his sights on the fast-moving plane thrown on the screen.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943



⚙️ **A DOUBLE-EDGED** razor blade rolled into an open cylinder with the two cutting edges facing each other, together with a special handle and sharpening device, has been patented. It may be pulled or pushed, one edge cutting and the other acting as a guard.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

⚙️ **SKI-TROOP FOOTWEAR** with rubber-cleated soles and heels, now in production, provide excellent traction on stone and ice. These new mountain-climbing boots clear themselves automatically of snow and ice and are nearly noiseless in use.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

⚙️ **ADHESIVE STICKERS** of paper thickness are replacing thumb-tacks to hold drawings and blue-prints on drafting boards. They are applied without moisture and are easily detached. T-squares slide over them.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

⚙️ **NON-REFLECTING** eyeglasses and windshields are made by an improved surfacing treatment. Greater visibility results from its use on show windows and cases, clock faces, and instrument boards. The method can also be applied to large areas of varnished woods, metals or photographs.

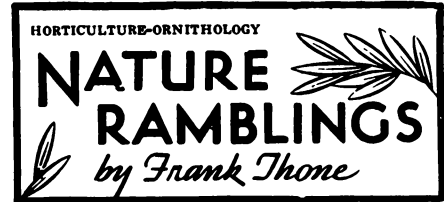
Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

⚙️ **LIFE-SAVING LAMPS** help locate men overboard at sea. They are completely encased in water-proof plastic with transparent red tops.

Science News Letter, October 2, 1943

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 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 176.

Sweden's sixth submarine, especially designed for work in waters around Sweden, has recently been launched.



Planting for Birds

► A LITTLE thought in planning your home grounds will get you birds in winter as well as flowers in summer. When you are setting out your fall planting of shrubs, or thinking of the ones you will set out next spring, it is always well to think of your borders and masses as spare rooms for bird guests. Even a few shrubs of the kinds that afford birds shelter and food will attract interesting neighbors, even in closely settled urban communities.

There are many species of shrubs, attractive in themselves as ornamentals, that are veritable winter pantries for the hardy feathered folk that stay with us through the cold season. Sumac is an old standby; its erect clusters of dry-fleshed fruits are swarmed over by hungry birds whenever snow lies too deep on the ground for them to find the seeds of lower-growing plants.

Fleshier berries in wide variety and a considerable range of interesting color can be set forth to tempt the birds. There is the white of snowberry, and dogwood, the red of honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, and coral berry, the blue of viburnum, wild grape and Virginia creeper. Some of these are so bitter or acrid to the human tongue that we wonder how the birds can eat them; but avian taste does not seem to be the same as ours.

Shelter as well as food is a consideration in setting out shrubs with an eye to attracting birds. Fortunately again, there are many shrubs and small trees that are pleasant to look upon, even in their leafless state, which at the same time are well-branched and twiggy—just the kind of thing birds like as roosting-places and windbreaks. Such

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