

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **ICE CUBES** that sink to the bottom of glasses filled with liquid have frozen in them patented metal ballast devices in decorative form. The melting rate of the ice is reduced and the ice does not contact the lips of the user.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1944

⚙️ **VIBRATIONS** in machinery and other objects are measured with accuracy and ease by a new device called a vibrograph. The frame is placed upon the vibrating body and vibrations are recorded in one plane only. Where there is no flat surface on the machinery upon which to rest the instrument, it may be held in the hand. A prod then transmits the vibrations to the instrument.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1944



attention of passing vessels or aircraft are made of heat-treated glass with reflecting surfaces on both sides. A cross-shaped aperture in the center lets a small cross of sunlight through. The picture shows the user sighting the target through the opening. When the image on his hand is reflected in the round mirror on the back of the device, the sunlight reflected from the face of the mirror hits the target.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1944

⚙️ **ELECTRIC** fly screens for windows and doors, which automatically electrocute flies and other insects coming in contact with them, are made of sturdy, horizontal metal bars fastened into insulated metal-and-wood frames. An electric current from a special transformer does the killing.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1944

⚙️ **SIGNALLING** mirrors for shipwrecked men on life-rafts to catch the

⚙️ **PORTABLE STILLS** weighing 72 pounds or less produce palatable, pure drinking water. Designed for field use, gasoline, alcohol, wood or coal may be used for fuel. Condenser cooling water may be added by a bucket. It may be separated into three parts for easier transportation.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1944

⚙️ **TRUCKS** for loading and unloading cargo airplanes may now be obtained with bodies which are hydraulically raised to exactly the height of the cargo door. The trucks resemble familiar elevating coal trucks. The lifts operate with scissors-type action.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1944

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 195.

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Question Box

ARCHAEOLOGY

How can the cultural cycle of the ancestors of the Incas be traced? p. 122.

CHEMISTRY

How can "nothing" make better vitamins? p. 119.

How many captured German tires have been found to be entirely of synthetic rubber? p. 121.

What kinds of plastics, films and foams are being made from blood plasma? p. 120.

GENERAL SCIENCE

How many boys and how many girls received honorable mentions in the Third Annual Science Talent Search? p. 126.

To what fields of science did George Washington contribute? p. 123.

When is the A.A.A.S. planning to hold a meeting? p. 116.

HORTICULTURE

How are aerosols being used to secure seedless fruit? p. 117.

INVENTION

How can masses of snow on a city street be made to melt faster? p. 120.

MEDICINE

What sulfa drug helps prevent gonorrhea? p. 115.

Where published sources are used they are cited.

Of what material are new type ear defenders made? p. 118.

What use is made of newspaper in a new test for sulfa drugs? p. 115.

Why will the African frog probably soon replace other animals for pregnancy tests in the U. S.? p. 121.

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What is the world's record low temperature? p. 115.

PLANT PHYSIOLOGY

What experiment may prove that the moon does affect plants? p. 120.

POPULATION

What cities can expect to have a reduced population after the war? p. 121.

PUBLIC HEALTH

What diseases have become epidemic in the U. S.? p. 116.

SOCIOLOGY

What percentage of men's jobs can women perform? p. 126.

STATISTICS

Among which age group did the U. S. mortality rate increase most in 1943? p. 119.

How much does it cost to raise a child on salaries in the middle income bracket? p. 117.

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