

• New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **SYNTHETIC rubber tennis balls**, now available, have bounce, resiliency and wearing qualities equal to if not better than natural rubber balls, it is claimed. An improved felt cover gives promise of a 10 per cent longer life on the court.

Science News Letter, March 25, 1944

⚙️ **TWO-WAY TRAFFIC** recorders used on highways register separately vehicles passing in each direction. Two parallel beams of light 18 inches apart are directed across the road to control two photo-electric cells. When one beam is interrupted a thyatron, or vacuum tube, actuates a balance relay which selects and operates one of the counters.

Science News Letter, March 25, 1944

⚙️ **PLACED AHEAD** of the machine, a newly patented lawn mower attachment cuts weeds and grass too high for the regular revolving blades. It is a reciprocal cutter much like that of the ordinary farm mowing machine.

Science News Letter, March 25, 1944

⚙️ **PAPER BLANKETS** made of many layers of soft crepe tissue, a cellulose fiber, are claimed to be warmer than wool blankets of equal weight. With normal care they will last a season or two. Being relatively inexpen-



sive, they can be discarded instead of being laundered and thus are ideal for use on sickbeds. A folded blanket is shown in the picture.

Science News Letter, March 25, 1944

⚙️ **SCRATCH HARDNESS** of paint films is accurately measured by a machine called a microknife. A load in grams is applied to a diamond-point cutting tool which revolves across the paint surface until the sub-surface is revealed. The weight and number of strokes measure the hardness.

Science News Letter, March 25, 1944

⚙️ **BOWLING BALLS** with curved holes for the fingers, recently patented, will permit a stronger grip and safer release than the present straight-hole type. Either two or all three of the holes may be curved.

Science News Letter, March 25, 1944

⚙️ **GLOBES** for classroom and home use, made without bases or other complicated mountings, will soon be available under a patent just issued. The hollow sphere is weighted on the inside so that when placed on a tabletop it comes to rest with its polar axis at the correct angle.

Science News Letter, March 25, 1944

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