

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

⚙️ **PLASTIC DISKS**, soluble in seawater, are used to recover naval torpedoes fired in testing. The disks are mounted on chambers called test heads, that replace the war heads used in action. They dissolve after a short period in the water, releasing a long line and float to mark the sunken torpedo's position.

*Science News Letter, June 23, 1945*

⚙️ **ATTACHMENT** for power-driven lawn mowers has been devised by two national Capital parks employes in Washington, D. C., that enables the mowers to be used as cultivators and seeders. One machine with the attachment can seed as much lawn as 30 laborers.

*Science News Letter, June 23, 1945*

⚙️ **MOBILE** traffic control signal device consists of the familiar standard, with stop-go lights at its top, mounted in a vehicle to take it to a street crossing where it may be needed temporarily. The vehicle carries a battery to operate the lights.

*Science News Letter, June 23, 1945*

⚙️ **FACTORY-ASSEMBLED** planking for highway grade crossings on railroads is made of pressure-creosoted hardwood in panels to fit between the tracks, with other panels outside each track. The five-inch thick strips, fastened rigidly together with spiral dowels, are unaffected by vibration.

*Science News Letter, June 23, 1945*

⚙️ **SUNSHINE** and rain are created in a machine used by a rubber company to test the effects of weather on a syn-



thetic rubber-like fabric. With the instrument, illustrated above, the effects of sunlight, periodic rain and temperature changes on the material can be determined in advance.

*Science News Letter, June 23, 1945*

⚙️ **RIVET SORTER**, used in an aircraft shop to separate salvaged rivets by lengths, sorts over 15,000 an hour. The rivets, dumped in a hopper, slide down a trough onto a slowly revolving circular plate, and are dropped by trippers of appropriate length into the proper can under the plate.

*Science News Letter, June 23, 1945*

⚙️ **SELF-HEATING** food container for

soldiers heats the contents without a visible flame or smoke. Approximately 8 4 by 1 inches, it has interior compartments separated by inverted V-troughs with open ends. A combustible jelly-like substance, placed in the troughs, is lighted with a match.

*Science News Letter, June 23, 1945*

⚙️ **VOLTAMMETER** is an improved type of electrical measurement instrument that contains, in a single sturdy case, an AC voltmeter and an AC ammeter. When plugged into an electric current, this new speed-up instrument gives simultaneous readings of current and voltage.

*Science News Letter, June 23, 1945*

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 264.

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## Question Box

### AERONAUTICS

What is the big advancement of the Navy's new "Seahawk"? p. 390.

### ASTRONOMY

Where was a new comet recently discovered? p. 392.

### BACTERIOLOGY

Why is it difficult to detect bacilli of the leprosy germ? p. 389.

### CHEMISTRY

How can the gypsy moth be eliminated from Pennsylvania? p. 388.

How have TB germs been stopped in test-tube experiments? p. 392.

### ENTOMOLOGY

How have grasshoppers and chinchbugs been checked lately? p. 392.

*Where published sources are used they are cited.*

### GEOLOGY

How should we handle the mineral question after the war? p. 388.

### MEDICINE

To what have the malaria cases in Oregon been traced? p. 387.

What three medical successes were seen at the Nutrition Clinic in Birmingham, Ala? p. 387.

### OPTICS

How are inaccessible spots around aircraft motors inspected? p. 391.

### PUBLIC HEALTH

How are varnish makers protected from skin irritation? p. 390.

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