

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⊗ **DOOR HANDLE**, to replace the knob that has to be turned, is an attractive plastic affair with a push-button at its center. Thumb pressure on this button releases the latch bolt so that the door can be opened. Closing the door relocks the latch.

Science News Letter, July 2, 1949

⊗ **STEAM IRONING** attachment for an electric flatiron can be removed when the flatiron is used in ordinary work. The steam ironing surface has a space between it and the regular iron into which water from a reservoir drips slowly to be converted instantly into steam by the heat of the flatiron.

Science News Letter, July 2, 1949

⊗ **MOLECULAR WEIGHT** meter utilizes the freezing-point method in determining the molecular weight of liquids and solids. In operation, the apparatus is plugged into a 115-volt line, and ice put in its Dewar flask. The freezing point of a liquid of known molecular weight is determined and compared with the freezing point when the material of unknown molecular weight is added to it.

Science News Letter, July 2, 1949

⊗ **SEALED BEAM** headlight for bicycles, shown in the picture, is similar to the type used on automobiles and produces a beam



pattern approximately five feet wide and 30 feet long, or three times the light given by the ordinary bicycle lamp. It operates on a battery of the five-volt hand-lantern type.

Science News Letter, July 2, 1949

⊗ **STEAM CLEANER**, improved portable high-pressure type designed particularly for automobile service stations and small industrial plants, is featured by instant starting, instant steaming, and automatic nozzle control mechanism which permits

operator to stop and start the machine at the cleaning job.

Science News Letter, July 2, 1949

⊗ **PLASTIC HANDLE**, for the candy-on-a-stick combination that youngsters enjoy, provides safety from stick-injury because it is made of a material that flexes, or bends, on the slightest impact. This odorless, tasteless, sanitary safety handle is flat and without a point or sharp edge.

Science News Letter, July 2, 1949

⊗ **CALCIUM CHLORIDE** moisture absorption unit, for use to dry damp basements, rooms and closets, consists of a V-shaped basket to hold the salt and a deep metal drip-pan, which has a handle like an ordinary basket for easy carrying and to hold the salt container in place. A spout makes it easy to empty.

Science News Letter, July 2, 1949

⊗ **PORTABLE DISHWASHER**, for the small family, is set when needed on the drain-board of the kitchen sink and attached to the hot water faucet with a length of hose. The dish-holding basket inside is rotated by four jets of water, and dishes are quickly washed by water pressure and soaking action.

Science News Letter, July 2, 1949

## Do You Know?

The *magnesium* supply seems inexhaustible; it occurs world-wide in sea water.

*Sulfuric acid* is the main byproduct of the zinc industry; it is made with the sulfur gases given off in roasting the zinc concentrates.

The *pectin* necessary to make jelly jel can be bought in stores; reliance on the uncertain amount present in the fruits is no longer required.

When a way is found to give a moderate amount of *ductility* to ceramic and metal combinations, a whole new series of useful engineering materials will be available.

The U. S. Signal Corps is using in Alaska low-frequency, high-power radio transmission to decrease the interference with radio communications in the polar region that engineers call "*auroral absorption*."

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