

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For addresses where you can get more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., Washington 6, D. C. and ask for Gadget Bulletin 478. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **TWO-SPEED** lawnmower resembles somewhat familiar mowers pushed by hand but has a gear arrangement by means of which the rotating cutting blades may be driven at a low or at a high speed. In this recently patented device, the cutting blades do not rotate about the main axle as in most mowers, but are positioned behind.

Science News Letter, August 13, 1949

⚙️ **KITCHEN AID** for housewives, a British invention, can be used for polishing shoes, scouring pans, peeling potatoes, grinding meat and coffee, beating eggs and other jobs, it is claimed. It is an electric device, on a table-high stand, equipped with various detachable tools for the various jobs.

Science News Letter, August 13, 1949

⚙️ **EGGS** are pasteurized and sterilized without breaking the shell, and without cooking, by means of a high-frequency electrostatic field in a recently patented device. Condenser plates, adjustable and made to place over the ends of egg, assure uniform heating throughout the contents of the shell, and there is no appreciable coagulation.

Science News Letter, August 13, 1949



⚙️ **FISHING TOY** for youngsters, shown in the picture, includes two fish poles with small magnets on the ends of the lines and six tropically colored plastic fishes with metallic noses so that they are attracted to the magnet on the line. It is designed for either outdoor or bathtub use.

Science News Letter, August 13, 1949

⚙️ **MODEL "B" POWER** supply unit, radically new in design, includes new heavy-type selenium rectifiers with wide range variable voltage control, damped volt and ammeter, eight power tap adjustments and heavy-duty switch. It is designed for testing or operating automobile radio receivers, but has many other applications.

Science News Letter, August 13, 1949

⚙️ **PEPPER GRINDER**, an improved type for use on the dining table together with a companion barrel-shaped, metal-topped and bottomed glass salt shaker, provides a superior taste to the food on which used because of the retained aroma and the flavorful oils of the pepper berry. A few berries are placed in the tiny mill at each filling.

Science News Letter, August 13, 1949

⚙️ **SOLDERING IRON** is heated chemically without use of an electric current, blow torch or furnace. A cartridge inserted in it contains a chemical mixture of certain magnesium-type powders capable of generating intense heat. Ignition is caused by the impact of a spring rod, pulled out and released at the back of the handle.

Science News Letter, August 13, 1949

• Do You Know? •

Women in Norway are still awaiting nylon stockings, a Norway paper states.

The reason that white ash is the favorite wood for baseball bats is its high degree of shock resistance.

A few tree species may be planted direct from the seedling bed to the field, but most trees have a better chance of survival if they are transplanted to a nursery row for a year or two.

A wild weed of Central America, a variety of Desmodium commonly known as beggarweed, is now found to have a protein content of about 19%, and is equal to or better than alfalfa when chopped and added to poultry rations.

Under the skins of apples, pears, peaches or plums sprayed with DDT and parathion, none of the insecticide was found in laboratory tests; neither was it found in cider from apples having a small surface deposit of the insecticide.

Interior wood, in most climates and under normal conditions, never decays because the fungi that consume wood require more moisture than is apt to be found in the interior of buildings.

A rocket can travel where air is thin or non-existent because it carries an oxidizer to enable the fuel to burn; all other types of engines depend on surrounding air for oxygen.

Chile, the Pacific coastal country of South America whose length is 25 times its width, has a climate varying from semitropical in the north, through temperate zone conditions in its center to Antarctic cold in the south.

The Great Plains area now has some 25,000 miles of shelterbelts and farmstead windbreaks, planted mostly in the past 15 years; these rows of five to ten trees, with the taller ones near the center, conserve moisture and save crops from scorching winds.

Tissue treated with silicone is an effective cleaner of eyeglasses.

The first official meteorological records in America were started in 1814 when the Army Surgeon General ordered Army hospitals to record the weather.

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