

• 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 480. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **ZIPPER FIXER**, for use in the home, is a simple, inexpensive handtool that will do the job without the removal of the zipper from the clothing. It is a plier-like tool with specially shaped jaws that are slid by hand-pressure under and over the zipper to repair any ordinary "fouled-up" conditions.

Science News Letter, August 27, 1949

⚙️ **TEMPORARY CAP** for use on beverage bottles is close-fitting, easily attached and makes a tight seal, and features a one-inch arm which projects to one side that makes removal with one hand simple. The cap is made of a durable plastic, easily cleaned, and has a smooth upper surface on which a name can be put.

Science News Letter, August 27, 1949

⚙️ **UMBRELLA** pocket in a raincoat or overcoat, recently patented, permits the carrying of a folded umbrella in an inconspicuous position over the right front of the thigh, extending from near the hip to near the knee, where it interferes neither with walking nor sitting.

Science News Letter, August 27, 1949

⚙️ **BATHROOM SCALES**, shown in the picture, features a magnified dial on a hinged tower-like structure that is turned upward when the device is in use, but at other times is left in horizontal position,



flat on the rubber mat of the scales. The one-foot height of the plastic tower makes the dial easy to read.

Science News Letter, August 27, 1949

⚙️ **PROTECTION** device, for use with hoists and cranes to protect against overloading, is a U-shaped bar with rings to aid insertion between the crane hook and the load below. An electric switch within

the arms of the U operates to cut the current to the motor if the weight to be lifted is above rated capacity of crane and cable.

Science News Letter, August 27, 1949

⚙️ **TOY JACK**, weighing half a pound but which can be jacked up to a height of 6.5 inches, is an educational device for boys and can be used to jack up tricycles, wagons and similar mobile toys. An eight-inch worm gear with handle provides easy operation.

Science News Letter, August 27, 1949

⚙️ **WRESTLING MAT** covers, made of tough Vinylite plastic flexible sheeting, have perfect traction for rubber shoes, while clothing and skin slide over it freely without injury. If small holes or cuts appear in it, they can be repaired by applying cold patches to the underside from the kit accompanying the cover.

Science News Letter, August 27, 1949

⚙️ **CALCULATING WRIST** watch has a circular precision slide rule built around the dial. On turning the rim into which the watch crystal is set, the slide index, made of unbreakable glass, automatically rotates; its pointer is made to face noon where it remains, even if the rim goes on revolving, until the rim is turned the other way.

Science News Letter, August 27, 1949

Do You Know?

The so-called *bald-headed rock-fowl* of the Cameroon region, West Africa, is so rare that few white men have ever seen it.

Pure clean *water*, free from particles that might serve as nuclei for starting-points of freezing, does not begin to crystallize into ice at the ordinary freezing point of water, 32 degrees Fahrenheit, but at about zero.

By-product chemicals obtained in the manufacture of synthetic heating *oil* and *gasoline* from coal may become basic ingredients for materials for plastics, resins, lacquers, pharmaceuticals, solvents and explosives.

Germanium is an element on the chemical border line between metals and insulators; its crystals act as rectifiers in turning alternating to direct electric current, a property that permits its use in radio to replace vacuum tubes.

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