

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **RUG AND UPHOLSTERY CLEANING PREPARATION**, a combination of selected and blended detergents, is said to be easy to use and unusually effective for this purpose but can be employed also to clean porcelain, painted wood and window glass. It is non-inflammable, odorless and kind to hands.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1949

⚙️ **HEAT-TREATMENT APPARATUS**, to harden rail joints after railroad tracks have been laid, is a portable blowtorch affair of light weight, usable by an unskilled operator. This recently patented device maintains a proper rate of movement back and forth across the joint, with a proper pause at the end of each stroke.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1949

⚙️ **CIGAR-CIGARETTE LIGHTER** for the home or office is similar to the familiar lighter used in automobiles but operates on the ordinary household electric current. Although made in various designs, these pop-up lighters are equipped with electro-mechanical chassis identical in all models.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1949

⚙️ **VELON PLASTIC BEDSPREADS**, shown in the picture, have the appearance and texture of luxury fabrics but



keep their smart good looks with a minimum of care. A damp cloth will remove everyday dust and stains, even baby's spilt milk. They come in metallic colors of blue, green, rose and gray.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1949

⚙️ **ANTI-CLOGGING DEVICE** for roof drains is inserted in the gutter end of the

down-pipe and provides turbine elements operated by water entering the drain. Suction ordinarily created in the drain, which draws materials against the strainer, is prevented by the turbine action in this recently patented invention.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1949

⚙️ **NAIL EXTRACTOR** for automobile tires, recently patented, is a toothed device to mount on the tread of the tire in a stationary position which will intercept nails and other small bodies embedded in the rubber as the tire is rotated past it.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1949

⚙️ **CLOTHES HAMPER**, that fits under the wall-attached bathroom wash basin, has adjustable sides which permits it to be easily placed under any standard fixture. Sturdily built of enameled steel, it effectively conceals drain pipes and makes use of what otherwise is waste space.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1949

⚙️ **INFRA-RED HEAT LAMP**, an industrial 500-watt sealed beam affair, utilizes a new type of tungsten filament and has the inside of its bulb lined with pure polished silver that acts as a built-in reflector. A protective supporting structure for the filament is a type never before used in heat lamps.

Science News Letter, November 26, 1949

## • Do You Know? •

Some 5,500 automotive patents will probably be issued this year.

Bacteria need their vitamins just as humans do; capitalizing on this fact, scientists are using microscopic life to measure the vitamin content of food.

The witch hazel shrub waits in the autumn until its leaves have turned a golden yellow before it bursts out with its stemless clusters of yellow flowers.

Gypsum plaster, with the mineral vermiculite instead of sand as an aggregate or filler, is claimed to give two to four times the fire protection provided by ordinary sand plaster.

Flavoring foods is the best-known use of common salt but far greater quantities are used in the manufacture of chemicals, explosives, paper, fertilizers, soap, steel, glass dye setting, water softeners and for thawing ice.

Modern farm management includes border planting of trees, shrubs and lespedeza grass for the benefit of wildlife as well as to prevent erosion and serve as a windbreak; some wildlife yields fur, others destroy insect pests.

Natural gas and petroleum are often found in the same underground deposits because both originated, it is believed, in past geological ages from marine organisms which were buried in the muds in ocean bottoms.

The largest salt mine in the world is believed to be one in New York State that produces some 4,000 tons daily in a single shift; in the past 20 years it has yielded over 12,000,000 tons of salt.

Norway will have 119 whaling vessels and 10 processing ships in the Antarctic during the present whaling season; one factory boat will can whale meat, liver paste and other whale products as well as processing the oil.

Vermiculite, coming more widely into use in lightweight concrete and plaster, is an aluminum-iron-magnesium-silicate mineral, heavy as found in nature but which expands permanently about 15 times in volume under heat-treatment.

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