

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

⚙️ **TELEVISION RECEIVER** will operate on the varying power line voltages and frequencies prevalent in many foreign countries. It operates on voltages between 110 and 240 and on power frequencies between 40 and 60 cycles. Also, it will receive any of the 12 very high frequency channels.

Science News Letter, December 17, 1949

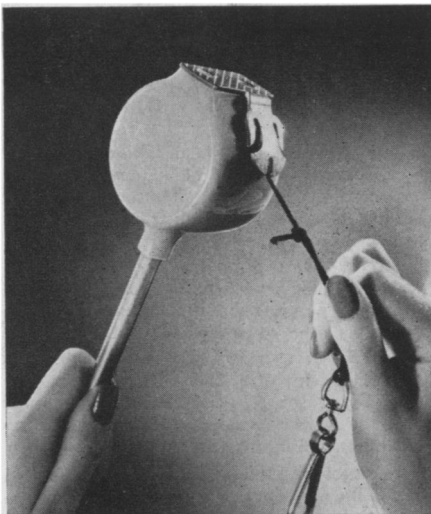
⚙️ **ELECTRIC WATER COOLER**, a type which has a compartment for storing milk and another for making ice cubes, maintains the three temperatures in the water-cooling chamber, the freezer and the refrigerated space independently of each other. Heavy duty in one does not affect the others.

Science News Letter, December 17, 1949

⚙️ **DIVING MASK** with pressure equalizing ear caps, for use in the popular sport of spearing fish under water, has the ordinary transparent-front covering for the eyes and nose but also has attached ear-covering caps. Air ducts connect the face mask and ear caps in this newly patented device.

Science News Letter, December 17, 1949

⚙️ **TETHER FOR THE TODDLER**, shown in the picture, contains a reel in



a plastic case and a safety line which allows the baby free movement within a safe area. The line, snapped to the child's belt, reels in and out automatically. The reel case is shown screwed to a stake to push into the ground.

Science News Letter, December 17, 1949

⚙️ **HOME FIRE ALARM** gives loud warning in a few seconds after a fire starts in any part of the house. It uses many small detector units placed in strategic places, each of which has a metal link that melts at about 150 degrees Fahrenheit, opening an electric circuit to operate the alarm.

Science News Letter, December 17, 1949

⚙️ **RADIATION COUNTER TUBE**, for beta and gamma ray detection is a thin metal wall tubular affair which may be operated over a wide temperature range without affecting tube life or electrical characteristics. This self-quenching tube features rugged construction, unlimited life and low operating voltage.

Science News Letter, December 17, 1949

⚙️ **FOUNTAIN BRUSH CLEANER**, to clean spots on clothing or office machinery, is toothbrush-size and has an elongated bottle, which holds the cleaning fluid, for a handle. By pressing a button over the brush, the non-inflammable fluid flows from bottle to bristles.

Science News Letter, December 17, 1949

## Do You Know?

The so-called *rain-lily*, more properly the *zephyranthes*, gets its name from its habit of blooming when the plant gets a good watering after a dry spell of a few weeks.

A *live-fish transport vessel*, recently launched in Norway, will enable Norwegian housewives to purchase their fish alive, a preferred method for many.

Total number of *specimens* in *entomological* collections of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, is now 2,700,000; transcontinental field expeditions added 63,000 insects and spiders this year.

The *Christmas cactus*, *Zygocactus truncatus*, is an old-fashioned American house plant that originated in Brazil; it requires a richer soil than the desert cactus, and also requires good drainage.

A large part of southeastern England is covered with a *clay* that has adequate load-bearing strength but it dries and shrinks in summer and swells in winter, often causing damage to buildings without deep foundations.

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