

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **BACKYARD GOLF BALLS** for practice travel only about one-tenth as far as standard balls under the same stroke. They are hollow, made of resilient polyethylene and contain many holes. Their "sound" and "feel" when hit are like those of a regulation ball.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1950

⚙️ **SELF-LUBRICATING SKI** has a plastic bottom bonded to natural hickory. The plastic is made of layers of cloth saturated with a synthetic resin and pressed under heat. This particular plastic is lubricated by water, which means the ski itself is self-lubricated by its contact with snow.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1950

⚙️ **THREE-IN-ONE SHAVING** set is a single unit with shaving powder container, a brush and a safety razor blade holder. Its cylindrical powder holder is the handle and from it powder may be forced into the brush. The razor is positioned in one of the six edges of the container's cap.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1950

⚙️ **RADIO TRANSMITTER-RECEIVER**, developed by the U. S. Air Force and shown in the picture, is for ditched airplane crews in life boats or belts in the ocean. It is able to transmit and receive both voice and



code signals, and has a pick-up range of 80 miles. Instrument and battery are unaffected by salt water.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1950

⚙️ **LABORATORY PIPETTE**, for use in delivering small measured quantities of liquids used routinely, will dispense any

volume up to two milliliters merely by operating a plunger. A vernier control regulates stroke of the plunger to deliver an exact volume.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1950

⚙️ **ADHESIVE WETTER**, for use when envelopes are ready for sealing, consists of a water-holding tube, like a pencil held between the thumb and forefinger, which has a sponge rubber roller at its lower end. A slight squeeze of the tube starts an even, smooth flow of water.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1950

⚙️ **ROLL-UP DEVICE**, to force toothpaste from the tube without the customary squeezing, is a small plastic cylinder with a split up its center. The end of the tube is inserted in the split. Then the "roll-up" is rotated as much as is needed by means of a tiny handle.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1950

⚙️ **MULTIPLIER PHOTOTUBE** is an improved photoelectric "eye" capable of picking up the feeblest illumination and converting it into electrical current. It can amplify the current as much as several million times, it is claimed. Uses range from work in astronomy to nuclear research.

Science News Letter, March 18, 1950

Do You Know?

Boston is the chief port handling lobsters.

Small magnesium plates hung around the hull of a steel ship greatly lessens damage to the steel by corrosion.

Rollers for applying paint to flat surfaces are replacing paint brushes to an increasing extent.

More than 97% of the men wounded in the recent war survived; resources of blood and plasma played a big part in the life-saving.

By reacting chemically the camphene obtained from turpentine with chlorine, a new substance, called *toxaphene*, is produced; it is a promising agent for a wide range of insecticides.

In order to avoid confusion due to years, astronomers use what is called the Julian Day Calendar; it is simply a count of the total number of days since the beginning of the year 4713, B.C.

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