

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

☞ **TRIFOCAL LENSES** in the eyeglasses, relatively new but now well tested in actual use, have three sections of power instead of two as in bifocals. They make objects fully clear in the area from 18 to 50 inches from the eye, and do so without the backward head-tilt required with bifocals.

Science News Letter, May 27, 1950

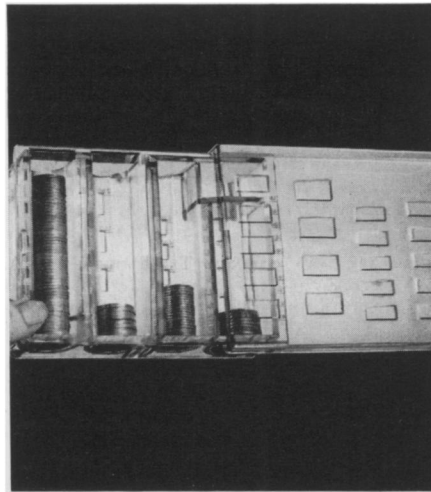
☞ **PLANT-FOOD SPRAYER** for the lawn, suitable also for insecticides and weed-killing solutions, consists of a plastic jar on a tubular support with a circular base. Water from a garden hose, passing through a center pipe in the jar, picks up a controlled amount of the solution and delivers it to the lawn.

Science News Letter, May 27, 1950

☞ **CASTING COMPOUND**, said to be neither a metal nor a plastic but with some characteristics of both, can be poured into molds at room temperature and, with the aid of varying amounts of a catalyst, made to set without heat. It forms a tough, hard metallic-appearing casting.

Science News Letter, May 27, 1950

☞ **COIN-COUNTER** is a transparent plastic box, shown in the picture, for use in stores, restaurants and similar places, with four columns to hold pennies, dimes,



nickels and quarters. Coins are placed in the proper column and their total value noted by a calibrated scale beside the column.

Science News Letter, May 27, 1950

☞ **VINYON YARN** clothing for workers in laboratories and acid plants withstands the destructive chemicals at concentrations widely used in industry. The resistance is inherent in the fibers, and is not due to

treatment. The clothing is also fire-resistant and safe to launder by ordinary methods.

Science News Letter, May 27, 1950

☞ **PROTECTIVE PADS** for railroad ties are made, under pressure, of abaca fiber and Vinylite resin, and are placed between the wooden ties and the steel tie plates under the rails. They lessen the cutting and wearing effects of heavy trains speeding on the tracks.

Science News Letter, May 27, 1950

☞ **WORKING STAGE**, suitable for uses ranging from painting to apple-picking, has a swiveling base to which are attached two arms, movable together or independently. From a platform at the end of the second arm, a worker can raise himself from a four to a 28-foot height. A small gasoline motor generator provides the power.

Science News Letter, May 27, 1950

☞ **FRENCH-FRIER**, an improved type for home use, is an all-aluminum, electric deep fryer with an adjustable thermostatic temperature control and a full-view pilot light that tells exactly when cooking oil is ready for use. It is styled for table service, and can be used from popping corn to baking bananas.

Science News Letter, May 27, 1950

Do You Know?

London had *air* pollution regulations as early as 1273.

Five-pound *crabs*, both big and tasty, are caught in the Bay of Biscay near Spain.

Polluting *gases* in the atmosphere are largely acid in character, causing irritation and corrosion.

The fiber plant known as *kenaf* is a good crop for Cuba because it fits into the slack season between sugar cane harvests.

An insecticide known as *lindane* is said to be effective for indoor use to control flies in areas where the pests have become immune to DDT.

Sowing *grass* seed by hand is a wasteful procedure; mixing it with sand is a good method where the hand-sowing method must be used on lawns.

Radio astronomy, a new field in science, includes the detection and interpretation of radio waves which are being sent to the earth from many parts of the universe.

An extra fillip for every week . . .

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