

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ASPHALT-ROAD** repairer is a giant machine which picks up the old surfacing material after it is broken up, pulverizes it, mixes it with a special asphalt softener, adds solid components if needed, and then lays it down behind the machine as a new road surface.

Science News Letter, March 31, 1951

⚙️ **BARBED WIRE** for cattle fencing, recently patented, is made of a single wire with sharp barbs electrically welded to it at spaced intervals. It is designed to replace the long-used type which has two wires twisted together and barbs twisted around one.

Science News Letter, March 31, 1951

⚙️ **SPORTS-TIMER**, a Swiss device to time ski and other speedy racers, utilizes two photoelectric cells connected to a motion picture camera and a high-precision clock. Start is signalled by shortwave radio; end is recorded by a contestant passing through the photoelectric beam.

Science News Letter, March 31, 1951

## Do You Know?

Florida has more *thunderstorm* days most years than any other state.

"*Isoceraunic*" maps, prepared by the U.S. Weather Bureau, show the number of days when thunder is normally heard in various parts of the nation.

*Lac* insects in Siam, which produce the important gum for use in varnishes and polishes, seem to prefer the Thailand rain-tree on which to live.

Although yellow *sweet corn* seems to be preferred by many, there is no correlation between color and quality and many white corns are of high quality.

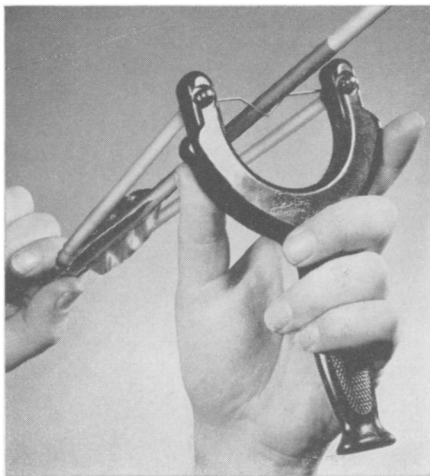
*Snow houses* used by some Eskimos can be kept at an inside temperature of 40 to 60 degrees Fahrenheit without melting if air outside is cold enough to neutralize the warmth within.

The first *parachute* descent from a height was made in 1595, it is claimed.

Radioactive chemicals have now proved that *fish* do actually drink.

Peeled *potatoes* left soaking in water, lose food value; after boiling they lose vitamin C if left standing in the air.

*Insects* were worn for adornment in ancient Egypt.



⚙️ **ARROW-SHOOTING** slingshot has a bow of tough plastic, molded in one piece, and a removable arrow-guide spanning the crotch as shown in the picture. With the arrow-guide wire removed, the slingshot can be used with the youngster's favorite projectile, a round pebble.

Science News Letter, March 31, 1951

⚙️ **ANTI-SLIP** floor wax, an improved type said to be safer than anti-slip wax

standards, contains carnauba wax especially treated to take the slip out of it. At the same time its luster is improved. It gives solid secure footing even to weather-wet shoes.

Science News Letter, March 31, 1951

⚙️ **FOOD PLATE** or other dish for the high-chair infant is anchored in place with suction cups on its lower side, which "take hold" when the food container is pressed downward. The suction cups on this recently patented device are made of a rubber-like material.

Science News Letter, March 31, 1951

⚙️ **WINDSHIELD HOOD** keeps rain off the windshield of an automobile when the car is parked in a drive-in theater. It holds itself in position like a visor when the two ends are inserted between doors and frames, and one size will fit all makes of cars.

Science News Letter, March 31, 1951

⚙️ **SURGICAL** drapes, to protect the skin of the body around surgical incisions, provide a large flat sterile field of a plastic film resistant to water, alcohol, surgical solvents and detergents. The margin around the hole through which the incision is made carries an adhesive to hold it in place.

Science News Letter, March 31, 1951

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