

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

⚙️ **FIRE ALARM device for beds, to awaken a sleeper and the neighbors in case of fire from a lighted cigarette, is a recently patented affair which emits a series of explosive noises. It consists of a number of fire-cracker-like units on a main fuse running around the mattress.**

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

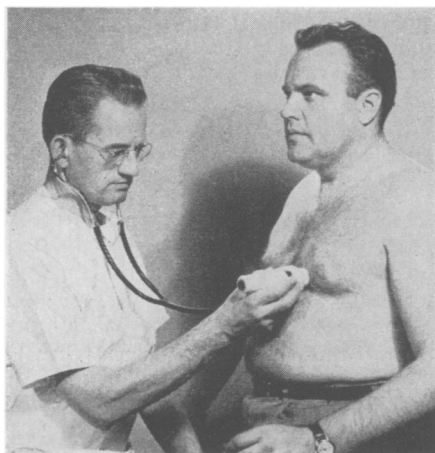
⚙️ **EARTHQUAKE INSTRUMENT for the amateur, a relatively simple and low-priced seismograph, is suitable for routine observations as well as special research. It consists of a highly sensitive optical lever which records on photographic paper, and can be operated in a dark basement room.**

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

⚙️ **SEWING MACHINE accessory enables the housewife to measure the tension on the thread and make necessary adjustments to obtain correct stitches. Held in position by suction cups with the thread extended into it, the device shows on a dial if the pull is too great or too little.**

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

⚙️ **MEDICAL STETHOSCOPE is an electrical instrument, shown in the picture, that amplifies the sounds of the heart as picked**



up by the doctor up to 50 times from normal stethoscopic intensity. Such conditions as murmurs, delayed beat and skipped beats are made much clearer and more audible.

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

⚙️ **HUMIDITY CARD, with seven circular color spots in a vertical column, indicates relative humidity from 10% to 70% by the color of the spots. They vary from white**

to blue with changing moisture, the top blue one at any time showing the percentage of moisture in the air.

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

⚙️ **HOUSEHOLD GLOVE, British-made but now available in America, has a "sueded" inner lining, and a textured holding finger surface that makes slippery and soapy objects easy to handle. It is a latex glove, easy to put on or off without the use of powder, and comfortable to wear because of its curved fingers.**

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

⚙️ **SMOKE DETECTOR for airliners, an improved type that can not give false alarms, is a small box-like affair on the pilot's instrument board through which air is drawn from the cargo compartment. Smoke in the air will reflect a light beam in the box, causing it to show in a window.**

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

⚙️ **HONEY REFRACTOMETER, for use by the beekeeper or in a processing plant, determines in a few seconds the amount of water in the honey. Only a few drops of honey are required as a sample; direct readings to one-tenth of one percent of moisture can be obtained.**

Science News Letter, April 21, 1951

Do You Know?

Sandy soils are improved by the addition of vegetable humus.

The highly-prized beaver is a rodent and a cousin of the rats and squirrels.

A teaspoonful of saccharin is equivalent to 375 teaspoons of sugar as a sweetening agent.

High-velocity cold-air tunnels, experimentally used to cool fruit rapidly before it is put in cold storage, condition fruit so that it can be held in storage for a longer period than otherwise.

Farm animals are helping farmers protect crops; turkeys kill worms in tobacco fields, goats control several kinds of shrubby weeds, and geese eat grass in the cotton field.

Enzymes are complex chemical substances, found particularly in the digestive juices of living creatures, that aid digestion by breaking down food molecules into simpler ones.

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