

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

☛ **ANT TRAP**, recently patented, uses no poisonous bait but a harmless material attractive to ants. The theory behind the invention is that the first few ants that find the bait will go back to the colony and bring the entire colony to the trap. Their combined weight trips the trap that dumps them into a jar below.

Science News Letter, April 28, 1951

☛ **COOLING MATTRESS**, for lawn or beach use in hot weather, is made of a flexible plastic sheeting in four elongated compartments, each designed to hold a mixture of air and water. Inflatable by mouth or bicycle pumps, the air presses the water against the surface where it conducts heat away from the body.

Science News Letter, April 28, 1951

☛ **DOMED SKYLIGHTS**, for use on the roof of a building to admit light to rooms below, are made of a single piece of transparent tough plastic material fixed to a trim metal frame. They come ready to be installed quickly and easily over a built-up opening.

Science News Letter, April 28, 1951

☛ **ADJUSTABLE PLATFORM**, by means of which heavy or hot laboratory equipment may be easily positioned at various levels above the workbench, is attached by a swivel-chair-like screw to a solid metal base. Platform is adjusted by turning the screw-support to which it is attached.

Science News Letter, April 28, 1951

☛ **CLOTHES MARKER**, to identify personal clothing, consists of a round black ink pad holder, and a red name bar holder which rests in a black base. Metal letters forming the name are set securely in the slotted bar holder. The ink pad is applied lightly before each impression.

Science News Letter, April 28, 1951

## Do You Know?

The small Oriental insect that secretes the resinous substance known as lac, used in varnishes and polishes, perhaps ranks in usefulness next to honeybees and the silkworm.

The largest true fishes are the sharks.

Sugar is easily assimilated in the human body and it supplies energy more rapidly to the body than any other food.

The life of a lion is usually about 15 years although exceptional specimens may pass 20 years.



☛ **VERMICULITE FILLING** for vases of cut flowers, as shown in the picture, is now available in garden supply stores. It will hold the flowers in position and relieve the housewife of renewing water. One application of water is enough for the life of the flowers when this clean, lightweight, mica-like mineral is used.

Science News Letter, April 28, 1951

☛ **FROZEN WAFFLES**, pre-baked and wrapped in cellophane, can be kept in the refrigerator for several weeks and de-frosted and browned in an ordinary automatic pop-up toaster in a one-minute period. If a toaster is not available, two minutes in a 400-degree oven will do the job.

Science News Letter, April 28, 1951

☛ **DUAL PURPOSE bus**, developed by the Army Ordnance Corps, can carry 37 seated passengers, or can be converted in less than 45 minutes into an ambulance with capacity for 21 stretchers. The vehicle has twin rear doors to facilitate the movement of men on stretchers and of stretcher bearers.

Science News Letter, April 28, 1951

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