

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **DELAYED ACTION SWITCH** for the lighting system leaves a dim light for about a minute after the switch is thrown to turn the lights off, long enough time to permit the operator to get safely out of a room. It is easily installed in existing wall outlets.

Science News Letter, June 2, 1951

⚙️ **PLUG-IN STRIP**, with frequent outlets for electric appliances, is designed to fit around the room at the top of the baseboard as a finish trim. Outlets are provided every 18 inches, and the strip has grounding receptacles for safely grounding electrical appliances.

Science News Letter, June 2, 1951

⚙️ **PORTABLE DRAFTING BOARD**, to hold business letterhead-size paper, is made of rigid plastic with button clamps in the corners to hold the paper. Two metal straight edges, one vertical and one horizontal, are retractable to permit the ready use of triangles on all four edges.

Science News Letter, June 2, 1951

⚙️ **IMITATION CIGAR**, a recently patented toy for a youngster, is a cigar-shaped tube with a flattened mouth piece at one end and an ash-resembling butt on the other. Inside is a tiny battery and flashlight which lights the ash-end when the mouth-end is bitten.

⚙️ **EASY-THREADING NEEDLE** for the sewing machine is fed by sliding the thread, held taut by two hands, down the shank

Do You Know?

In prehistoric times the *sweet potato* was used for food in two widely separated parts of the world, the tropical Americas and some of the islands in the Pacific.

Sturgeon, once a plentiful giant fish, was found principally in ocean water but some of the 20 known species live entirely in fresh water like those of the Great Lakes.

Certain highways which do not provide sufficient breaks in driving monotony seem to produce a "hypnotic" effect on a driver that may result in an accident.

Artists are using *aluminum* sheeting in place of the traditional canvas for oil paintings.



of the needle, as shown in the picture. Near the top of the needle is the slot into which the thread passes to be carried down to the eye. When once down to the eye, it remains there.

Science News Letter, June 2, 1951

⚙️ **DIALING DEVICE**, for use with the telephone, eliminates manual dialing and automatically calls numbers when a single button is pushed. An arm of the device fits over the dial and a rubber finger within does the work. About 500 numbers may be set up on the device for push-button dialing.

Science News Letter, June 2, 1951

⚙️ **"MOBILE BAR"** is a truck-mounted bar room in use in England for serving drinks at outdoor events. It is an aluminum "ten-wheeler" power unit and trailer, with refrigeration for seven barrels of beer and 3,500 half-pint bottles. One side, when raised, forms an awning to provide overhead shelter to customers.

Science News Letter, June 2, 1951

⚙️ **INTERIOR WALLBOARD**, suitable also for other uses, is somewhat similar to ordinary three-ply board but its inner layer is made of medium size wood chips. Outer surfaces are thin laminated wood sections. The segments are resin-coated, and fused together under heat and pressure.

Science News Letter, June 2, 1951

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