

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⊗ **VINYLITE TABLECLOTH**, a durable plastic cover easily cleaned with a wet sponge and soap, can be used either side up. One side has a printed plaid effect, while the reverse side looks and feels like a different fabric weave and also has a solid contrasting color.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

⊗ **DRINKING TUBE** for the youngster, on which the government has just issued a patent, is an elongated affair, made of transparent material, folded in a series of parallel sections. The purpose of the folding is to hold the child's attention while the liquid passes through.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

⊗ **STORAGE BATTERY** tester, developed by the Army Signal Corps, can be mounted on the steering wheel of an automobile and will tell the driver if there is enough juice in the battery to start the engine. It will also indicate if the battery is getting too much charge from the generator.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

⊗ **PLATE FOR** printing, a pre-sensitized photo-offset plate ready for exposure and use without further preparation, is made entirely of aluminum and is said to be the first fully pre-sensitized all-metal plate ever made for general use. It is capable of extended press runs.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

⊗ **"AIR-CONDITIONED"** ironing board is constructed with a metal frame holding a surface of "expanded" metal, as shown in the illustration. A sheet of metal has been pierced and stretched into the smooth diamond pattern surface. This open-mesh



top gives the ventilation that permits garments being ironed to dry quickly.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

⊗ **DEHUMIDIFIER** for the home or office is an improved type that uses the same principle as the electric refrigerator.

AGRICULTURE

Cleaner Cotton Through Use Of Leaf-Shedding Chemicals

➤ **BETTER GRADES** of cotton lint are expected this year through wider use of chemicals that force the cotton plants to shed their leaves earlier, permitting harvest of cleaner bolls.

Use of these chemicals, technically known as defoliants, will help the U. S. meet its 1951 production goal of 16 million bales, Dr. W. H. Tharp, plant scientist with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, points out.

Cotton plants can be forced to shed their leaves only when they are fully mature so correct timing is essential in spraying or dusting the defoliants. The leaf-shedding chemicals, such as calcium cyanamide, help give cleaner harvests whether the cotton is picked by hand or by mechanical picker. The treatment also aids in insect control and reduces the number of boll weevils carried over in the field.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

Moisture-soaked room air is drawn into it by a fan, and passes over cold coils which condense the moisture into water that drops into a pan below.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

⊗ **SWIMMING POOL** cover is a sheet of vinylite plastic which, in use, fits over the side walls of the pool with the main part of the sheeting floating on the water. It not only keeps the surface free from dust and debris but it decreases evaporation and prevents escape of chlorine from chlorinated water.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

⊗ **DOOR-HOLDER**, to keep the door open while a person with full arms is passing through, is an inexpensive device to fasten to the top of the door and the frame. It holds the door open for an adjustable time, depending on the force used to open it.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

INVENTION

Meat-Less Food Looks And Tastes Like Sausage

➤ A **NUTRITIOUS** human food that contains no meat but looks, tastes and smells like country sausage or hamburger, brought patent 2,560,621 to Charlton L. Wrenshall, Jacksonville, Fla. Its basis is non-fat dry milk solids. From 36% to 40% of these solids from skim milk is protein, and also contained in skim milk are the carbohydrates and mineral of the original milk. Additives, such as potato, cereals, fat, coloring matter and flavoring materials, give the preparation, when cured by a heat treatment, texture and other desired qualities.

Science News Letter, July 28, 1951

Do You Know?

There are more than 12,000 varieties of fresh and salt water fish in the world.

The so-called jumping mouse can make a broad jump of 10 feet or more and can leap six feet high.

The 30-pound liver of the shark yields over 2.5 gallons of oil which is 70 times as rich in vitamin D as cod liver oil.

King snakes are immune to the poison of rattlesnakes and other poisonous reptiles and, therefore, do not hesitate to attack them under provocation.

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