

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **BUMPER GUARDS** for automobiles, made of rubber or of polyvinyl-chloride plastic and filled with air, are designed to replace the shock absorbers now widely used. These inflated bumper guards are claimed to be highly effective in providing flexibility to absorb chassis and passenger shock.

Science News Letter, February 9, 1952

⚙️ **FLOORING SURFACE** for worn, cracked, rutted and disintegrating floors of concrete, wood, asphalt and composition materials is an improved material containing hardwood fiber chemically treated and held together with a plastic binder. It can be applied with a trowel and hardens in 24 hours.

Science News Letter, February 9, 1952

⚙️ **CHANGEABLE BOWLS** for the tobacco pipe are made of a porous ceramic whose walls filter out harmful tars and permit only clean smoke to pass through the stem of the pipe. Because the tobacco burns inside the ceramic bowl, a pipe needs no breaking in and the wood itself is never burned.

Science News Letter, February 9, 1952

⚙️ **MINIATURE BATTERY** for such tiny flashlights as keylights and lipstick-lights, is three-eighths inch in diameter and less than two inches in length. This dry cell



battery, shown in the photograph, makes possible tiny flashlights for many purposes.

Science News Letter, February 9, 1952

⚙️ **RUBBER CARPET** for the stairway covers the backs of the steps as well as the steps themselves and combines the endurance of rubber with the general ap-

pearance of ordinary carpet. Made of high-grade rubber, it comes in two widths and in various colors.

Science News Letter, February 9, 1952

⚙️ **AIR DRIER**, for use in homes, basements and other places, is an improved device, with an electrically-operated suction fan, that traps the water in the atmosphere just as the outer surface of a glass of cold beverage does on a warm humid day. In it, the moisture collects on cold copper tubes.

Science News Letter, February 9, 1952

⚙️ **ELASTICITY TESTER** for fabrics is a device for measuring elastic recovery after they have been stretched lengthwise or crosswise or both at the same time. The equipment is operated by applying tension to a fabric with a systematic series of weights, then releasing the tension.

Science News Letter, February 9, 1952

⚙️ **BED SPECTACLES** with prismatic glasses mounted in sturdy plastic frames eliminate the necessity of a reclining reader holding the book in an elevated position or of raising the head with several pillows. They can be worn over regular glasses by persons who normally use them.

Science News Letter, February 9, 1952

## Do You Know?

Wild rice, that once grew abundantly along the marshy borders of rivers and lakes in Wisconsin and Minnesota, was an important food for Indians and attracted many of them to the region.

Trumpeter swan is the largest American bird in the waterfowl family.

Practically all dyes used today are made synthetically.

The wild fox likes a rabbit or mouse for food but eats fruits, berries and insects during the months when they are available.

Sagebrush growing on semi-desert land is an indication that the soil is fertile and suitable for agriculture if irrigated.

Stars are not brighter in winter as supposed by many; during the winter months there are more bright stars to be seen than during the summer.

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