

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

⚙️ **LIGHTED NAMEPLATE** and push-button for the household door contains a tiny electric bulb that stays lit at all times but requires only perhaps a penny's worth of electricity a month. Name plate and bulb are encased in a weather-resisting plastic with the light shining directly on the name.

Science News Letter, February 16, 1952

⚙️ **SEWING CARDS** for little girls permit the youngster to sew clothes onto life-like figures. Clothes, and the dolls onto which they are sewn, are cardboard cut-outs with pre-punched holes. Yarn used for sewing has shoe-lace tips, eliminating the need for dangerous needles.

Science News Letter, February 16, 1952

⚙️ **DE-ICING SYSTEM** for helicopter rotor blades, developed by the U. S. Navy, is an electric heating system with wires embedded in a rubber-like material stretched along the entire length of the blades. With this de-icing system the helicopter becomes a craft of far greater usefulness.

Science News Letter, February 16, 1952

⚙️ **UNDERCOAT FOR** surfaces to be lacquered or enameled will make possible a more wide-spread use of fir and other open-grained woods because it has superior filling properties and ability to hold down the grain of the wood. Also it prevents a glossy finish from sinking in.

Science News Letter, February 16, 1952

⚙️ **FLOOR FAN** and coffee table in combination uses an improved type of horizontal fan that blows air directly upward and



then outward. As shown in the photograph, it has a 22-inch round table top for an upper surface. Five curved rings enclosing the fan aid air circulation and also

keep the fingers of children away from the whirling blades.

Science News Letter, February 16, 1952

⚙️ **WALLPAPER BRUSHES** with durable fibers of Bakelite styrene make it simple to smooth paper and glue flat against the wall. Easily cleaned by dipping in warm suds, the brushes are resistant to chemicals and outlast ordinary ones five to one, it is claimed.

Science News Letter, February 16, 1952

⚙️ **TOW-TARGET**, a 30-foot long and 6-foot wide banner to drag behind a speedy airplane to give antiaircraft gunners practice shooting, is made of the plastic material known as polyethylene. This improved tow-target withstands the high speed and cold encountered high in the air.

Science News Letter, February 16, 1952

⚙️ **ADHESIVE TAPE**, which will stick to any clean smooth surface without wetting, is particularly useful for labels in waverooms and laboratories because it can be written on with pencil or stylus. The writing is actually done on a carbon surface between two layers of an acetate.

Science News Letter, February 16, 1952

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Do You Know?

The principal income of commercial Angora goat ranching is from the sale of mohair, a textile fiber in steady demand.

Tapioca, popular thickening for fruit pies, soups and puddings, is made from the roots of the cassava plant, a native of tropical America but now widely grown in southeastern Asia.

The scimitar-horned oryx, an antelope of southeastern Arabia, may have given rise to the legend of the unicorn because its horns, when seen in profile, appear as one.

Americans donated 1,225,000 pints of blood through the Red Cross to the military forces in the first 18 months following the start of the war in Korea.