

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

⚙️ **MAKE-UP KIT** for theater-minded children, or adults, includes false mustaches, pipes, glasses, tooth black, theater tickets, real grease paint, powder, rouge and a "good-sized" mirror. Three original plays, simplified for amateur production, also are included.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1953

⚙️ **INSPECTION LIGHT** for use around machine shops features a tiny electric light bulb mounted on two adjustable arms which allow the bulb to reach locations 24 inches from the unit's base. The portable device can be regulated to concentrate a small beam of light exactly where needed and to hold it there, allowing the worker to have both hands free.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1953

⚙️ **IMAGE BRIGHTENER** attachment for standard fluoroscopic equipment shows doctors fluoroscopic pictures of live, human internal organs 200 times brighter than do screens not equipped with the device.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1953

⚙️ **INDIVIDUAL COFFEE** servers each hold two cups of coffee, keeping the beverage hot in small heat-resistant glass containers trimmed with bright-colored plastic insulating neck bands. Having glass stoppers, the servers fit into coffee cups, as



shown in the photograph, so that heat escaping from the servers warms the drinking cups until the servers are removed.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1953

⚙️ **"PLASTIC STARCH"** is used like conventional laundry stiffening agents, but it makes treated clothes harder to soil and easier to wash back into brilliance. Containing a special anti-dirt compound, the "plas-

tic starch" coats each fiber in the material with a smooth film which prevents dirt from coming into close contact with the fabric.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1953

⚙️ **NEW INSULATION**, not yet available commercially, creates an effective "thermal barrier" where insulation space is limited and heat is a problem. It is said to be 10 times more efficient than any insulation now in use.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1953

⚙️ **NEW HEARING AID** has a regular microphone and an accessory external microphone which is worn on men's ties or women's dresses to reduce "clothing noise." The aid also has a built-in device which is said to enable the wearer to carry on telephone conversations free from other sounds and interference.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1953

⚙️ **ELECTRIC CHAIN** saw features 12 log-gripping teeth which hold the saw against the work and enable the machine to spike and feed itself completely. Weighing only 18 pounds, the portable saw operates on standard 115-volt power. It is especially suitable for topping, notching and felling trees.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1953

## • Nature Ramblings •

➤ **FORESTERS, LUMBERMEN**, botanists, even poets, celebrate the "lordly pine"—meaning, usually, a tree imposing to the eye, with a trunk big enough to make a fine log and saw up into handsome boards, or even to serve whole as a mast "for some high ammirail."

There are pines enough to fit such specifications: par excellence the white pines, but also such tall brothers of the yellow-pine series as the long-leaf pine of the South and the ponderosa, black and big-cone pines of the West. Magnificent trees, all of them.

However, there are many pines of lesser stature than these, trees that would stand no more than waist-high or even knee-high to the pines that get all the press notices. They also have their place in the world, even if (like most of us common folks) they never get their names in the papers.

These lesser pines are to be found in all the major tree-growing regions, in all latitudes and altitudes, even in the tropics.

### "The Lesser Pines"



But always they grow on the marginal lands, where pickings are meager and where it takes a decidedly thrifty, patient and tenacious plant to succeed at all.

They are found in such places as the sandy coastal plains and clay hills of the South, the ill-balanced soils of the Middle Atlantic coast's serpentine barrens, the rocky shores of New England, the dune sands of

the Lake States and central Nebraska, the thin soils of Southwestern deserts and Rocky Mountain plateaus, the adobe hills and crumbling granites of the Pacific slopes.

In all these places you will find the lesser pines. Often they are spaced far apart because there isn't enough moisture to permit them to grow close together. There they will develop full-branched tops. Seldom, though, are these symmetrically pyramidal like those of their more seemly kin trees. More likely they will be buffeted into gnome-like shapes by the fierce winds of mountainside winters or the soft insistent tyranny of salt-laden sea breezes.

Elsewhere, however, they will form close-ranked forests—too close-ranked, often, to permit the development of stout trunks. So characteristic is this weediness of some of the lesser pines that it has even given one species its characteristic name: lodge-pole pine.

Science News Letter, January 31, 1953