

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

⚙️ **MOISTURE CONDITIONER** for the home takes the stickiness out of air in the summer and adds moisture to dry air in the winter. Operating from ordinary 115-volt a.c. electric power, the unit stands about two feet high, weighs 50 pounds and is 16 inches in diameter. When dehumidifying, it takes three gallons of water out of household air a day. When humidifying, it adds two gallons to the air a day.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1953

⚙️ **ELECTRONIC COUPLER** of UHF and VHF television antennas uses a silver printed circuit sealed in a plastic case. The unit can join up to two ordinary VHF antennas with one UHF antenna. It feeds the television set through a single transmission line running from the coupler.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1953

⚙️ **CATCH-ALL CABINET** consists of 8 to 24 small, labeled drawers designed to hold tacks, bobby pins, pins, stamps, paper clips and other small items that clutter desks, work tables and vanities. The sturdy, steel, rubber-footed cabinet frame slips into a space only 6 inches deep and 12½ inches wide. It can be obtained in heights varying from about 4 to 12 inches, depending upon the number of drawers.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1953

⚙️ **SPACE HELMET** made of shatterproof cellulose acetate plastic, as shown in the photograph, should please little boys and



girls who belong to this age of imaginary space travel. The clear dome-like helmet has openings in the front and rear for ventilation, but a bright red inflatable plastic collar, air hose and two oxygen tanks lend a realistic touch.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1953

⚙️ **PHOTOCOPYING MACHINE** for offices is scheduled to be marketed within the next few months. Completely automatic, the unit is small enough to be placed

on a desk without cramping the office worker. It turns out a black-and-white photocopy of the original in 30 seconds, and will handle papers up to 11 x 17 inches in size.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1953

⚙️ **FILM-DEVELOPMENT CALCULATOR** provides amateur and professional photographers with a quick, easy way to figure development times for different films in different developers at different temperatures. This lets the darkroom worker develop his films scientifically to the exact contrast (gamma) he desires.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1953

⚙️ **ELECTRIC SHAVER** outfit consists of a small unbreakable mirror and a shaver that operates from three ordinary flashlight batteries. The kit is packaged in a pigskin travel case that withstands the rugged use of sportsmen. The shaver can be adapted to plug into automobile cigarette lighter receptacles. It draws only one-tenth the current of an automobile radio.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1953

⚙️ **BRUSH-ON SOLDER** paste can be used to join all common metals but aluminum and magnesium in the flame of a cigarette lighter or a candle, the manufacturer states. The paste is reported to be especially good for emergency repairs around the house.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1953

# • Nature Ramblings •

➤ **WINTER-WEARY FOLK**, looking for the first robin, the first crocus, the first lilac leaves, are also likely to be greeted by other signs of spring that are not so welcome. Flies, for example.

The first few scouts of the fly hordes, that you see while outdoors is still chilly in the daytime and frosty at night, are most probably not new flies but old ones—hangers-on that have hidden away in attic crannies and other out-of-the-way nooks during the winter, most of the time numbed into immobility by the cold but still managing to stay alive.

Yet they are quite capable of propagating their evil kind, so now is the time to annihilate them, before they become too numerous to deal with by anything so elementary as a swatter. A swat in time now may save nine millions in July.

Appearance of these straggling advance guards should be sufficient warning to you to look to your anti-fly defenses while the

## Stop 'Em Now!



season is yet young and before the main forces of the enemy arrive. Now is the time to get your screens out of storage, brush them off, and see if there are fly-size leaks in them.

Remember, it doesn't take much of a hole in a screen to let a fly through: their mesh is designed to be just about enough to stop a fly or an ordinary mosquito, so one or

two broken or pushed-aside wires constitutes a practicable breach.

Unless your screens are of copper or other non-corroding metal, paint them. That will do much to insure continued security against the persistent enemies, who will be trying to sneak into your house as long as warm weather lasts.

Do not mix DDT with your paint. This was an early recommendation that looked very promising for a time; but the very quality that makes paint good—a tight, tough, elastic outer film—is the wrong thing for DDT, because it seals it in and does not release it rapidly enough to do the flies any harm. The thing to do is paint your screens, then, after the paint has well dried, brush or spray them with a residual-type DDT preparation—there are plenty of the latter on the market now, each with its own merits, as the labels and advertising matter will not neglect to tell you.

Science News Letter, March 7, 1953