

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

⚙️ **SNAKE-PROOF PANTS** for sportsmen and others who must expose themselves to rattlesnakes and copperheads weigh just a little more than ordinary duck pants. The snakeproof trousers are lined completely around the legs and above the knees with fine wire mesh padded with three layers of duck

Science News Letter, March 14, 1953

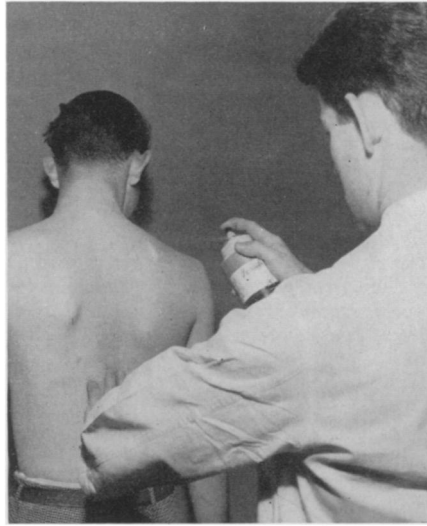
⚙️ **SHIPPING CONTAINER** for radioactive cobalt 60 and other industrial materials used in radiography holds up to about 800 millicuries of activity. The container has an outer shell of $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch malleable iron that is filled with lead. This provides an effective shielding equivalent to four inches of lead. The container's lid can be locked closed to keep out unauthorized persons.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1953

⚙️ **MOUSE-FEEDING STATION** is designed to hold dry bait away from the floor and to keep the bait clean and dry. The plastic device stands about three inches tall and has no moving parts. Mice can get at the bait through mouse-size holes in the station's base.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1953

⚙️ **ADHESIVE BALM** is sprayed on the skin directly from the can, as shown in the photograph, before adhesive tape or plaster casts are applied. The balm is said to form



a highly antiseptic, non-toxic, plastic-like film that allows dressings to hold more firmly yet be easily removed.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1953

⚙️ **PAINT SPOUT** fits gallon-size paint cans and keeps paint from getting into the lid-sealing groove while the paint is being stirred, mixed, poured or used. The spout permits the painter to pour the paint exactly

where wanted, and is "ideal for filling roller pans, fountain rollers and spray guns," the manufacturer states.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1953

⚙️ **SOIL-BORING MACHINE** can be mounted on a trailer and will drill clean boreholes up to 20 inches in diameter and 16 feet deep in most soils. Powered by its own engine the unit will bore vertical or inclined holes at a rate of about one foot a minute.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1953

⚙️ **THERMOMETER CLAMP** for the laboratory fits over the edge of any beaker and holds the thermometer against the side of the vessel in an easy-to-read upright position. The thermometer can be slipped up or down through the clamp. The clamp also will hold glass stirring rods and metal electrodes.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1953

⚙️ **ANTI-FUNGI CHEMICAL** can be added to paints to control mold growth. It also protects textiles from loss of tensile strength due to fungi attack, prevents the growth of fungi on vinyl plastic films and coated fabrics, preserves articles made of synthetic rubber and prolongs the life of cords, webbing, twine and rope, the manufacturer reports.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1953

• Nature Ramblings •

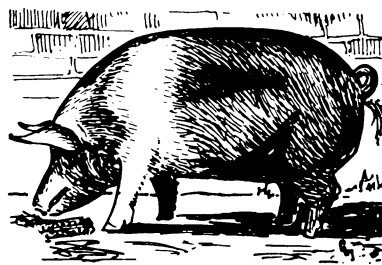
► **PREPARATIONS FOR** St. Patrick's Day festivities almost inevitably feature, amid the verdant shamrocks, a plump pink pig, perhaps with a green ribbon tied around his neck.

But if mention is made of this incredibly well-scrubbed little porker he is usually referred to as "Paddy's pig," the implication being that he is the property of some later, humbler namesake of the great saint, as if it were somehow improper to associate swine with the austere, white-bearded bishop that is the usual picture of St. Patrick.

We should remember, however, that there was a time in Patrick's life when he wore neither beard nor mitre—though he may have had to live austere enough even then. And in those days, if the story of his early life as commonly told has any truth in it, he had a good deal to do with pigs.

The tale that as a lad he was kidnaped by pirates and sold into bondage in Ireland,

St. Patrick's Pets



serving some years as a swineherd, is at least as credible as any other part of the many legends that are handed down from generation to generation concerning the famous St. Patrick.

It may even help explain the near-miraculous strength and energy which he brought to his incessant travels and hard labors throughout a long life. For herding swine in the Irish woods a millenium and a half

ago was no job for a milksop. The pigs of Patrick's day were slab-sided, fleet-footed, thoroughly "ornery" creatures, more like our Arkansas razorbacks than the tame, sleek, slow-moving porkers of present-day pigpens.

Keeping them from straying was a job for a young athlete. If the younger Patrick really ever was a swineherd, he got the full benefits of rugged outdoor living and plenty of hard exercise.

Not that St. Patrick would disapprove the kind of pigs they raise in Ireland nowadays, if he should chance to stroll through a country fair in his beloved island. For like most saints—especially those burdened with bishoprics—Patrick was a practical man, desiring to see his people prosperous as well as virtuous; and the modern pig, yielding fuller-fleshed hams and longer rashers of meatier bacon, would undoubtedly please his judicious eye, as it also pleases the modern palate.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1953