

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

⚙️ **FLASHLIGHT BULB** throws either a flood or a spot of light at the flick of a switch. Designed to work in special two-cell flashlights, the lamps have two filaments much like sealed-beam automobile headlights.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

⚙️ **CHEMICAL SOLDERING** iron needs no electricity because it works on "heat cartridges." Inserted in the iron, the cartridge is triggered by a firing rod that is pulled out and allowed to snap back. The iron heats in 10 seconds to about 800 degrees Fahrenheit, maintaining the soldering temperature for six to eight minutes.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

⚙️ **MINERAL BUILDING** material replaces concrete in superstructures and gives 10 times better insulation at the same time. Developed in Sweden, the lightweight material comes in slabs 20 inches wide, up to 18 feet long and from two to 10 inches thick. Like wood, it can be sawed, drilled, cut with an ax and nailed.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

⚙️ **TOP RAISER** for convertibles having electric top-raising facilities automatically causes the top to go up the instant a rain-drip hits the device. To keep the top from going up while the car is moving, the device works only when the ignition is off.



A second model raises both top and push-button windows, and a third model, for hard-top convertibles and sedans, just raises windows. The device is shown in the photograph.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

⚙️ **THREE-D MOVIE** screen for the classroom or home minimizes the need for darkening the room. Satisfactory for either third-dimension or regular movie projec-

tion, the screen offers uniform brilliance and high color fidelity. A roll-up model will be put on the market "as soon as possible."

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

⚙️ **MAGNETIC INSTRUMENT** helps doctors remove steel splinters lodged in the eyes of industrial workers. The instrument also has a flexible loop which can be used for removing cinders and dust. Sterilization does not hurt the magnetic qualities of the instrument, the manufacturer reports.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

⚙️ **"SAFETY LOCK"** for automobile doors may prevent tragedies by keeping the door closed even if children riding inside should accidentally unlatch it. The chrome-plated device clamps to the rain gutter and is locked from the outside with a "twist of the wrist," the manufacturer states.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

⚙️ **"SOIL MINERALIZER"** slowly dissolves in garden soil and supplies traces of the mineral elements often lacking but needed by vegetables for rigorous growth. During a five-year research program, the chemicals were found to increase crop yields 40% in one case.

Science News Letter, April 18, 1953

We wish to serve you—

## LET US ORDER YOUR BOOK

### Don't Delay

getting that NEW BOOK you want to read. SCIENCE NEWS LETTER will gladly obtain for you any American book or magazine in print. Send check or money order covering regular retail price (\$5 if price is unknown and adjustment will be made). We will pay postage in the United States. You can attach a separate sheet, to your address coupon at left, listing title, author, publisher, price, and mail to Book Department, Science Service, 1719 N Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

4-18-53

## Do You Know?

Many common *birds* fly about 25 miles an hour.

The *ostrich's* eyes often weigh twice as much as its brain.

Spitting *cobras* often can shoot a jet of venom with deadly aim as far as 10 feet.

The economic loss inflicted on Chicago by *tuberculosis* is almost \$100,000,000 yearly.

All "*shooting stars*" smaller than your thumb burn out before they strike the earth.

The Douglas fir *tree* actually is a false hemlock, and a red cedar actually is a cypress.

"Lipoic acid," a new *vitamin* used by man to digest his food, has been discovered and made synthetically by a University of Illinois microbiologist.

Jet pilots measure their *aircraft fuels* in pounds rather than in gallons because fuel density can change as much as 10% at high altitudes, shrinking the volume deceptively.