

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 674. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **MAGNETIC BULLETIN board** uses tiny gold-plated magnets instead of thumb-tacks to hold papers in place. The 7 x 9 inch board is leather covered and is mounted on an easel to stand vertically or horizontally. It also can be hung like a picture.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1953

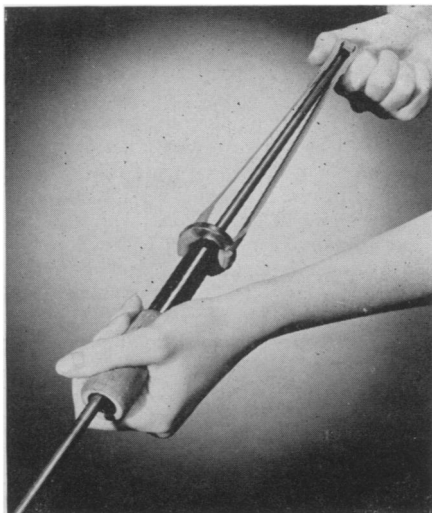
⚙️ **DICTATING MACHINE** uses sheets of magnetic-coated paper to record voice that later is to be transcribed by a stenographer. The paper sheets can be reused over 2,000 times, folded, written upon and mailed. By backspacing the machine and re-recording, the user can correct dictation errors. The machine plays back the dictation through a built-in loudspeaker.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1953

⚙️ **SURGICAL SPONGE** is treated with barium sulfate to make it detectable under X-rays. When a doctor wonders if he has left a sponge inside a patient after an operation, X-rays will reveal this sponge's presence. No "exploratory operation" is required.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1953

⚙️ **SPEAR-SHOOTER**, for fishermen who disdain rod and reel, is a butyrate plastic model of the bamboo-and-rubber Hawaiian



sling, as shown in the photograph. The spear is inserted into a round holder and is shot out "slingshot style" by a rubber sling attached to the rear of the device.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1953

⚙️ **INSECT KILLER** vaporizes a potent chemical, a development from Lindane, and is said to keep the average-size house free

of flies, moths, mosquitoes and silverfish. The small device plugs into ordinary household electrical outlet and vaporizes the odorless chemical which is deadly to insects but harmless to humans and domestic animals.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1953

⚙️ **ROD GUIDE** holds a fishing rod in the proper position from the sandy bank of a river or from the wooden deck of a boat. The small stand is made of zinc-plated torsion steel to resist corrosion by water and fish oils. It holds the rod so the reel can be braked quickly when a fish strikes the bait.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1953

⚙️ **FLAT-TIRE FIXER** dispenses a compound said to fuse with punctured rubber inner tubes and casings, making it unnecessary to change flat tires. The object that punctured the tire is removed first. Then the slender snout of the dispenser is inserted in the rupture. The device pumps in a quick-setting sealing compound. It also repairs tubeless tires, the maker reports.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1953

⚙️ **ILLUMINATED CLIPBOARD** with flashlight attachment makes it easier for recordkeepers in railroad switchyards, warehouse and other poorly illuminated places to see what they are trying to check. A small reading light extends over the clipboard to illuminate the paper.

Science News Letter, May 16, 1953

Spring is here . . .

3 EXPERIMENTAL KITS \$1.50

TO GIVE YOU A HEAD START

★ **1953 SEEDS**—Royal Carpet Alyssum, 1953 All-America silver medal winner. Four vegetable seeds for the home garden: small-vined, early maturing tomato; spineless okra; giant radish; late-maturing, vitamin broccoli.

★ **1952 SEEDS**—Salad Bowl lettuce, long-lasting and heat-resisting garden lettuce, Mandarin Chinese cabbage and Celosia Pampas Plume, a new cockscomb—all available for the first time in 1952; Dianthus Double Gaiety, new member of the "pink" family . . . all are particularly suitable for home gardens.

★ **1951 SEEDS**—Recent flower breeding progress demonstrated by Glitters marigold, top-flight new marigold, and Limelight Marigold, best of its type a decade ago. Two cucumber varieties, one wilt-resistant, show progress in breeding new vegetables.

To: Science News Letter, 1719 N St., N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

I enclose my remittance of \$.....
for.....collection(s) of Growing
THINGS @ \$1.50. Please send to me at my
address as imprinted to the left.

5-16-53

Do You Know?

Born black, some *seahorses* change color during their early life, but turn black again upon reaching maturity.

Ambergris, found along seashores and valuable as a perfume base, sticks to a red-hot wire instead of melting; it also floats.

Some *helicopter pilots* must operate two controls with their left hand, a third with their right hand and two pedals with their feet.

Moisture-proof and air-tight packaging, with low oxygen, does much to keep today's powdered milk from acquiring the "stale" or "tallowy" taste it often had in prewar days.

The recently violent *volcano* on lonely San Benedicto Island, 1,000 miles southeast of San Diego off the Mexican coast, has simmered down to occasional fumeroles producing small spouts of steam and smoke inside the crater.