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

TRANSPARENT SURGICAL dressing is sprayed on a wound directly from an aerosol "bomb." Forming a clear plastic-like covering over the wound, the "bandage" permits immediate inspection of the cut or burn, and is said to be less of a nuisance than ordinary gauze bandages. The dressing peels off readily when the doctor wants to remove it.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1954

RAZOR BLADE sharpener is a small electric device equipped with a series of leather and abrasive wheels to hone and strop doubled-edge blades so they can be used for 100 shaves. The sharpening process takes about 20 seconds for the average blade.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1954

© COLORED TAPE for home and commercial tape recorders permits easy identification of a section of the reel that may be frequently played or re-recorded. Spliced into the standard tape, the new green and blue colored tapes cost slightly more than ordinary brown tape.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1954

MAGNETIC RETRIEVER fishes iron and steel tools and articles out of drains, pools, lakes and from under cars. Housed in a case a bit bigger than a cigar, as



shown in the photograph, the powerful permanent magnet is designed for use around the house and in garages. Two removable neoprene "bumpers" keep the magnet from coming into contact with iron pipe walls and "sticking."

Science News Letter, February 27, 1954

AIR MAT for sun bathing, surf riding or camping has six tubes with two separate

air chambers and two valves for inflation. Emerald green on one side and bright yellow on the other, the mat is 74 inches long and 24 to 33 inches wide. Although designed for sporting purposes, the mat also can double as a spare mattress for the home.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1954

WING MIRRORS attach to existing car rear-view mirrors and can be adjusted to give exceptional "coverage" of the road behind. Said to eliminate "blind spots" on both the right and left sides of the car, the mirrors are attached by means of turnbuckles and clamps.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1954

ADDRESS PRINTING attachment, working from punched cards, prints four address labels at once for newspapers, magazines and companies issuing annual reports. One reel of tape holds enough to permit more than 10,000 labels to be printed. The tape also is punched for feeding into commercially available mailing machines.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1954

Strand FLOOR PATCH material is a modified asphalt preparation with a bituminous aggregate. Shoveled into dangerous holes in concrete floors the material is tamped down for immediate use. This takes about ten minutes. Normal traffic over the patch hastens the hardening process.

Science News Letter, February 27, 1954

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Do You Know?

The distribution of *elephants* today shows that they are gradually dying out, retreating before weather, environment changes and man.

It is estimated that 137,000 lightning bugs, all *lighting* at the same time, would equal one 60-watt electric bulb.

Fire strikes 800 homes every day in the United States.

The 1953 catch of commercial fish and shellfish in the United States and Alaska totaled about 4,400,000,000 pounds, 100,000,000 pounds more than in 1952.

In the postwar years oil production in the United States has increased 35%, while production in the Middle East, excluding Iran, increased more than 500%.

Almost one-fourth of the *scientists* working in industrial research are studying flight problems.