

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

☛ **PLANTING MIXTURE** is a cross between an organic fertilizer and a potting soil enriched with a bacteria-biotic-enzyme composition. It can be used straight from the bag as a very rich potting soil, or it can be diluted 400% with sand and still be a satisfactory planting medium.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1954

☛ **POWDER "HAMMER"** drives  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch pins and studs into one-inch structural steel or concrete, imparting to them a holding power up to 10,000 pounds. Charged with any of four different powder loads, the "hammer" is 15 inches long, weighs less than eight pounds and is designed for one-hand operation in hard-to-reach places.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1954

☛ **"PLASTIC WOOD"** comes in a variety of colors and can be used as a filler for cracks, gouges, nail or screw holes in furniture or woodwork. A "natural-color" variety can be stained with waterproof drawing inks to match almost any wood color.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1954

☛ **MARKED GLOVES**, snugly fitting the hands and fingers, help novices learn to type by the touch system. As shown in the



illustration, letters are printed on the gloves to correspond with the fingers that strike the keys. Instructions and a typing chart showing the keyboard accompany the gloves in this educational kit.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1954

☛ **REVERSIBLE WINDOW shade** is made of a flexible plastic with a rich box grain design. One side of the shade is a light color, such as cream, and the other side is dark to harmonize with exterior colors. Light does not penetrate this material, which resists sunlight, rain, air, moisture, mildew, insects and most chemicals.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1954

☛ **BOTTLE BOUNCER** is a vinyl plastic jacket that fits around baby bottles. It prevents breakage when the bottle is dropped or thrown to the floor at any angle. Made in four pastel colors, the bottle jacket also helps to keep the milk warm.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1954

☛ **UTILITY CART** is an all-purpose device for suburban living. Its removable canvas bag is useful while gathering laundry, dead leaves or trash. With the bag removed, the cart becomes a hand truck, weighing only 25 pounds but capable of hauling 200-pound sacks or cans. Its framework can be collapsed for storage.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1954

☛ **FLY HOLDER** for fishermen is a vinyl plastic cup-like device with magnets in its bottom. Pinned to the fisherman's shirt or jacket, the device airs wet flies for fast drying and permits easy selection of the desired fly. A guard around the small device catches flies that may slip from the magnetic grip.

Science News Letter, April 24, 1954

## A FEW MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

### in *Things of science* for 1954

#### A WONDERFUL GIFT . . . ANY TIME OF YEAR

ONCE A MONTH for a year we will pack a blue package with scientific fun, with mental stimulation, with hours of absorption, with future hobbies, with knowledge; but specifically we will pack the boxes with THINGS of science—real objects of science to be handled and looked at and owned. And with them, sheets of suggested experiments and complete explanations of them. There are now more than ten thousand members of the group of friends of science who receive one of these exciting boxes each month. This unusual service comes one year postpaid for \$5.00. (Add \$1 for additional postage on outside U.S.A. addresses) Use this coupon to send in your gift memberships NOW.

Send **THINGS of science** for one year to the names and addresses on the attached sheets.

- Renew my own subscription for one year.
- Payment enclosed.       Bill me.
- Send gift card in my name as imprinted at the left.

4-24-4

## Do You Know?

The *pelican* derives its name from the Greek; it has a huge beak shaped like the great Greek *pelekus*, an ax.

About 25% of *headaches* are caused by visual trouble.

About 100,000 persons use the U. S. *over-seas libraries* a day.

Two-thirds of all *automobile* trips are less than eight miles.

In Ceylon there are about 60,000 people whose main occupation is *fishing*.

*Color television* picture tubes are coated with 750,000 tiny phosphor dots; a third of the dots are red, a third, green, and a third, blue.

Abnormal *radioactivity* was recorded in eight of ten areas surveyed in Florida by the airborne radioactivity unit of the Department of the Interior.