

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

⚙️ **DISPENSER FOR liquid plant food** is made of a non-corrosive plastic and is fitted with a heavy-duty quart glass container. Attached to automatic sprinkling equipment, such as a garden hose with a whirling lawn waterer, the device maintains proper plant-food-to-water proportions for all working pressures and rates of flow.

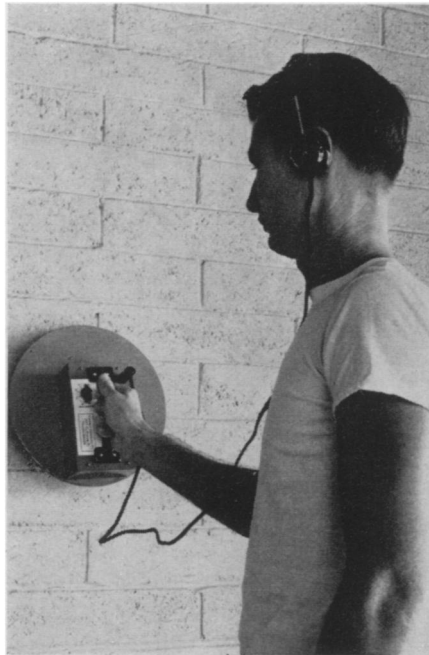
Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

⚙️ **SPLICER FOR magnetic recording tape** permits unskilled persons to make a professional job of editing home or studio recorded programs. The device has a cutting arm with three knives, one of which can be pivoted to cut the tape at a perfect 90-, 67½- or 45-degree angle. The two side knives cut the splicing tape to the exact width of the recording tape.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

⚙️ **SUPERLONG MATTRESS**, designed especially for tall men who often cannot get their feet in bed with them, is six feet 10½ inches from end to end. The mattress is the new standard "king-size," set up by the National Bureau of Standards recently when it was discovered that the number of men over six feet tall has increased 70% since 1918.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954



⚙️ **METAL DETECTOR**, shown in the photograph, is an electronic device that distinguishes metallic iron from other metals,

such as gold and silver. It also will detect black magnetic sands. It can be used to trace pipes and wires through cement, plaster or wood walls, or help find gold nuggets in streambeds, or coins and metallic jewelry on beaches.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

⚙️ **FOLDING SPATULA** jacksknifes into a monel sheath so that it can be carried in the breast pocket of a laboratory coat without danger of its cutting the fabric. The reduced overall length makes it easier and safer to carry. The blade locks securely when in the open position.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

⚙️ **FLOATING HOLDER** for fishhooks is molded of a styrene plastic and keeps 20 hooks free from tangling or snagging hands or clothing. If dropped in the water, it immediately bobs to the surface. Tiny built-in springs keep the hooks and snells neatly separated under tension.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

⚙️ **GRILL PLATE**, for persons who enjoy cooking for friends, can be used as a broiler, cookie sheet, grill, fryer and a serving tray for hot hors d'oeuvres. It works over a fireplace, kitchen range or in the oven. Its handle can be slipped off until needed, thus protecting hands from burns.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

⚙️ **NEEDLE THREADER** is a small mechanical device that accepts needle sizes three to seven. The needle is inserted eye-end-first into a hole and a lever is pressed. The maker says even a blind person can use it.

Science News Letter, June 19, 1954

## A FEW MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

in *Things of science*

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 membership 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.

6-10-4

## Do You Know?

A single crabgrass plant will produce 90,000 healthy seeds.

More than six times the present population of the United States, or 1,000,000,000 persons, could live on the food this country could produce.

*Avalanche* research stations have been set up in a number of European countries, particularly in Switzerland, to study the behavior of snow in varying climatic conditions on varying terrains.

The death rate from tuberculosis has dropped from 183.9 per 100,000 of population in 1900 to 12.6 in 1953.