

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

⚙️ **PERSONAL SPEAKER** brings TV sound to the hard of hearing without increasing the volume of the set and disturbing other viewers. The small speaker, equipped with a 30-foot cord which clips to the speaker terminals of any TV or radio set, can be placed inconspicuously on the viewer's shoulder or chair-back.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

⚙️ **HAIR CLIPPER**, designed for use on the feminine leg or underarm, is a petite tool finished in polished nickel. Imported from Germany, the clipper cuts very close to the skin without irritating it. The complete unit, when tucked in its leather case, is about the size of a cigarette pack.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

⚙️ **SUPERMAN CAPE** of bright red plastic and bearing the official Superman emblem will protect Junior when he is caught in the rain while out battling for law and order. Designed for young folk from two to ten, the cape is packaged with an "autographed" picture of the popular comic-strip hero.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

⚙️ **PLASTIC STRAINER** for washing fruits and vegetables is a modern version of the wire-basket food strainer. Two plastic halves fit together to hold foods for rinsing in a stream of water from the kitchen tap. After washing, excess water is drained from the food by gently shaking the strainer.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

⚙️ **RAZOR PLANER** uses ordinary double-edge razor blades for small planing jobs such as shaving edges of narrow cabinet doors, shelves and moldings. The tiny tool can plane curved areas and is useful in model-making.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

⚙️ **SPRINKLER SYSTEM**, shown in the photograph, of butyrate plastic is designed for installation by suburban homeowner. To install, the flexible pipes are laid out



on the lawn and joined with solvent cement, the turf is obliquely slitted, the pipes slipped underneath and the turf pressed back in place. The kits are available with either two or four sprinkler heads.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

⚙️ **FLOATING KEY chain** will be a "life-saver" to the boatman who accidentally drops his ignition or cabin keys overboard. This gadget, a red and white plastic float combined with a rust- and corrosion-proof chain, will stay afloat with up to a quarter-pound of keys attached to it.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

⚙️ **LUNCH BOX** of flexible yet sturdy plastic resists food stains and odors and is less likely to scar table tops than are metal boxes. The box will hold a man-sized lunch and, equipped with a shoulder strap, will be excellent for such purposes as carrying suntan oils to the beach or toting wet bathing suits home again.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

ENTOMOLOGY

Tiny Flies Puzzle With Flights at Dawn and Dark

➤ **FRUIT FLIES** take flight twice daily at dawn and dusk, two British scientists have discovered. Most other insects are active only at one period in the day.

The insect with the two peaks of activity, found in trapping experiments at Rothamsted Experimental Station, is *Drosophila subobscura*. This kind of fly was most active in the subdued light of the beginning or end of the day, despite the fact that this species cannot mate without light, at least in the laboratory. This insect is related to the famous tiny fruit flies that can be seen flying around overripe fruit, like bananas, which are also used to work out the laws of heredity.

L. R. Taylor of Rothamsted and H. Kalms of Galton Laboratory of University College, London, reported their studies in *Nature* (July 31).

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

The nation's health bills total nearly \$10,000,000,000 annually.

WHAT YOU MUST KNOW WHEN YOU TRAVEL WITH A CAMERA

Do you know how to take pictures from an airplane in flight, a train speeding past an interesting landscape, the inside of a motor coach?

Do you know what you must NOT photograph if you would avoid loss of your film and perhaps your camera?

Do you know how much film you may bring into each country you enter? Where you shouldn't bring any at all? Do you know the best thing to do when your film is exposed—or do you just pack it into your luggage hoping the image on the film will still be strong enough to develop and print clearly upon your return home?

Samuel E. Lessere's *What You Must Know When You Travel with a Camera* leads you through the red tape of foreign photography. It helps you get really good travel pictures, tells you how to save considerable money

(otherwise travel photography can be pretty expensive, as you yourself can see once you start figuring up how many rolls or packs of film you might shoot on just a single trip). And it's a sound basic guide to good photography anywhere—especially when you travel.

With its help you'll have pictures your friends will honestly welcome seeing (and not just tell you, out of politeness, they enjoy seeing). There's hardly a question about such technical matters as loading, focusing, using accessories (filters, a special lens, flash-guns, cable releases, etc.) which isn't answered. You learn about equipment to take for easiest handling while traveling, where to get good values overseas in films, cameras, etc., and dozens of other important facts you must know when you travel with a camera.

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DENTISTRY

Future Dentists to Take Aptitude Tests

➤ **BETTER AND** happier dentists, presumably, will be opening offices in about four years. The reason is that aptitude tests will be required of all prospective dental students in the future. The first, for applicants to the freshmen classes of 1955, will be conducted Oct. 1-2, 1954, Dr. Shailer Peterson of the American Dental Association in Chicago has announced.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954