

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

⚙️ **MOISTURE DETECTOR** to determine the relative subsoil moisture content provides an instantaneous reading at any point down to 14 inches below ground level. Adjustable for the soil condition of a particular area, the probe weighs only one pound, 11 ounces and operates electrically by batteries.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

⚙️ **INK REFILL** is contained in the hollow of the pen-cap of a new fountain pen that carries its own extra supply of ink. The cartridge, which is transparent and airtight, comes into position automatically when the cap of the pen is withdrawn. A flip of the pen lever delivers the extra ink to the writing tip.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

⚙️ **PORTABLE STOVE** for camping, picnicking, or cottage and trailer use has a disposable liquefied petroleum fuel tank. Assembled in a matter of seconds, the stove packs into an 11 by 5½ by 5½ metal case, which also serves as an adjustable windshield. No pumping, priming or warm-up is required, even in sub-zero temperatures.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

⚙️ **MECHANIZED CADDY** is a battery-powered golf bag toter, shown in the pho-



tograph. It features special gears to help pull the golfer up steep hills, as well as easing him down rugged grades. A handy handle switch stops and starts the device, and a speed selector paces the caddy to the individual's walking speed. Pneumatic tires and over-all light weight protect the turf.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

⚙️ **FOOD STORAGE UNIT**, made of plastic, can be used as a deep cake- and bread-keeper, food crisper, dishpan or all-around kitchen storage utensil. Lightweight and flexible, this large container is easily cleaned and will not shatter or smash when dropped or handled roughly.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

⚙️ **HOT DOG FILLER** first removes the center of an ordinary frankfurter and then fills it with just the right amount of cheese or other food. It is made of tubular aluminum and a plastic plunger.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

⚙️ **LIGHT CONTROL** permits the homeowner to vary the light intensity of lamps and lighting fixtures to any degree, from complete darkness to full brightness. Described as the thermostat of lighting, the unit is a 360-watt variable autotransformer operating from a 120-volt AC source and installed like conventional light switches.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

⚙️ **INFLATABLE BOLSTERS**, made of plastic, are easily cleaned by wiping with a damp cloth. The bolsters, when inflated, measure eight inches in diameter and are available in 54-, 36-, and 24-inch lengths. When not in use, they can be deflated, folded and stored.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1955

A FEW MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

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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.

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Do You Know?

It takes 800,000 gallons of water to grow an acre of cotton.

The mullet is said to be the only fish rich enough to fry in its own fat.

A modern transport airplane contains 16 miles of insulated electric wire.

When frightened, the *springbok*, a timid, antelope-like animal, has been known to leap 12 or 13 feet in the air.

The fastest game fish is the sailfish which has been clocked taking out 100 yards of line in three seconds, nearly 70 miles per hour.

Despite extreme drought in many areas in 1953 there was an 18% decrease in the number of forest fires compared to the previous year, 1952.

Children born with a *cleft palate* have a good chance to speak normally if they undergo an operation when they are from 18 months to two years old.