

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

⚙️ **PORTABLE RINK** for outdoor ice skating makes this winter sport possible in some areas from April to November. Installed or dismantled in six days, the portability is achieved by more than eight and one-half miles of plastic piping, providing a network of brine coils over which water is sprayed and frozen to produce a two- to three-inch-thick skating surface.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1955

⚙️ **ELECTRIC STARTER** for home power lawnmowers is self-contained. Operating on the same principle as automobile starters, the user only presses a button with his toe and the engine is started. Starting motor operates on 6 volts, 40 amperes, and the 7-plate battery can produce more than 400 starts.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1955

⚙️ **DRAFTING AID** uses a time-saving pivot principle to combine a protractor, T-square, rule, paralleler, compass and dividers in one instrument. Made of clear, non-warping plastic, the aid comes in various sizes.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1955

⚙️ **GARDEN SPRAYER** is a hollow plastic tube, shown in the photograph, which holds one-half gallon of spray solution. The pressure pump's piston protrudes from the bot-



tom and is pushed down to operate sprayer. Up and down movement supplies pressure capable of shooting streams up to 10 feet from the ground. Sprayer head on a plastic wand has right angle turn to enable operator to spray all parts of plants or shrubs.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1955

⚙️ **DOOR CONTROL** utilizes radio-frequency signals to open, by remote control, garages or gates. Designed to be mounted against garage ceiling rafters, the automatic door control is housed in a box 7¼ inches wide by 15 inches long by 9 inches deep. Unit also includes an external light for illumination as door opens.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1955

⚙️ **HOSPITAL TAPE** seals and automatically identifies materials or bundles that have been subjected to the high heat, steam and pressure of autoclaving. Holding in steam up to 250 degrees, the tape is readily removed from linens, jars or tubes without leaving stains or gummy residue.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1955

⚙️ **GRAPHITE LUBRICANT** is propelled in a jet-stream reaching many often inaccessible trouble spots. The non-flammable lubricant is made of colloidal graphite floating in a petroleum base, which is housed in a squirt type container.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1955

⚙️ **LIGHTING AND transporting devices** for photocopying machines permit production of clear, legally acceptable and fade-proof reproductions of documents, papers and cards under any lighting conditions. The new devices, a transparent red plexiglass visor and spring-suspended plexiglass rollers can be installed on any existing machines.

Science News Letter, March 5, 1955

## A FEW MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

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## Do You Know?

The number of marriages decreased almost 10% in Reno, Nev., last year as compared with 1953.

There are now 70,000,000 licensed car, bus and truck drivers in the United States, one-third of whom are women.

The average life expectancy at birth for American workers is now 69.9 years, insurance figures show; in 1911-12 the figure was only 46.6 years.

Supplies can now be dropped to troops from low altitudes by a "rotochute," a bomb-shaped device with rotor blades to slow the descent.

A large part of Texas, including what is now Dallas, Ft. Worth and Paris, was covered by the *Denton Sea* during the period extending from 80,000,000 to almost 60,000,000 years ago.