

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 794. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **TRANSPARENT FINISH** protects wood or linoleum table and sink tops from hot pans, cooking fats, alcohol, detergents and water. After buffing the surface with steel wool, the finish is easily applied with a paint brush.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1955

⚙️ **SEWING MACHINE** boasts push-button controls that come close to making the machine fully automatic. An estimated 200,000 different types of stitches can be performed by this machine. The machine makes button-holes, darns, blind stitches and monograms automatically, and features an automatic bobbin winder.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1955

⚙️ **ENAMELED ZIPPERS** are available in various colors to match dress fabrics. The enamel, based on vinyl resins, protects metal of the zipper from water and cleaning chemicals that sometimes rust zippers and stain garments. Zippers have a new rocking slider that prevents embarrassing jamming and sticking.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1955

⚙️ **"DOGGY" CLOCK** is molded in the shape of Disney's Pluto, as shown in the photograph. The electric clock's face is a



feeding bowl planted on the dog's belly. As the clock runs, turning hour and minute hands shaped like bones, the comic dog rolls his eyes and moves his tongue in anticipation of a meal that never comes.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1955

⚙️ **CONTACT LENSES** are claimed to be 24% smoother than contact lenses pre-

viously available, increasing the wearer's comfort and vision. The fluidless lenses are made by a plastic-forming method in which the lenses are, in turn, subjected to heat, pressure and cooling.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1955

⚙️ **MOTOR BIKE**, imported from Holland, has a very low center of gravity and a two-stroke, one-cylinder engine that develops 2.1 horse power. An adjustable suspension seat and telescoping front fork add to riding comfort. Long-wearing drum brakes provide large braking surface for the bike.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1955

⚙️ **CORDLESS HEARING AID** can be worn entirely in the ear. Weighing less than one-half ounce, the aid contains three tiny transistors. Since the entire one-unit aid is worn in the ear, clothing noise is eliminated and telephoning is simplified.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1955

⚙️ **OUTDOOR THERMOSTAT**, expected to cost 75% less than existing automatic systems, signals the indoor thermostat when the weather changes. Then the indoor thermostat turns the furnace on or off immediately, instead of waiting until inside temperature drops or becomes uncomfortably hot. The new unit will be marketed in January, 1956.

Science News Letter, September 3, 1955

## 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.

9-3-5

## Do You Know?

Most *vegetables* absorb 10% of their total nitrogen requirement in the first quarter of the growing period, 20% in the second, 40% in the third and the remaining 30% from then until harvest.

*Pollen* is the male fertilizing element of flowering plants, trees and grasses; it consists of fine, powdery, yellowish grains that are microscopic in size.

It is now possible to fill the four chambers of the *heart* with a chemical that makes them stand out in an X-ray chart and to demonstrate position, size and shape of the chambers and the sequence in which they fill.

One pound of *uranium*, a piece no larger than a golf ball, if fissioned completely, could produce as much energy as 2,500,000 pounds of coal.

The African *pygmy* is still in the hunting stage of civilization and knows little of agriculture or pasturage.