

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

⚙️ **WINDOW ATTACHMENTS** are designed to eliminate sash cords and weights. Fitted to the sash, the metal device permits the removal of the entire window for washing. The kit includes four units plus two zinc strips for covering the pulley openings and a sash plug.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1956

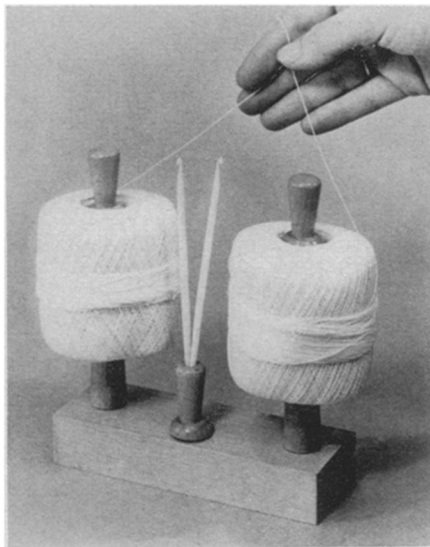
⚙️ **CALKING GUN** for the do-it-yourself repairman is described as eliminating dripping and splattering. Providing instant shut-off, the gun-cartridge combination tool has a pistol grip and trigger for easy handling. One cartridge will produce 15 to 20 linear feet of calking bead.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1956

⚙️ **MICRO-FILM READER** can be dismantled for rapid transportation. A British invention, the portable reader is designed for the projection of 35 mm or unperforated 42 x 32 mm film. Made from light alloys, it weighs 19 pounds and is lighted by a 300-watt, 230-volt projection lamp.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1956

⚙️ **CROCHETING AID**, shown in the photograph, is a thread holder and automatic reel. A combination of brass and rubber fittings, it unreels at the right ten-



sion to produce perfect stitches. Holding two balls of thread, it can be used as a single or double unit, for working two colors or the same color. Preventing unraveling, the device takes any size ball.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1956

⚙️ **PLASTIC PIPE PLUG** to prevent internal corrosion of stored pipe and tubing is made of neoprene. The slip-over and roll-on end caps seal out air, moisture, corrosive fumes and dust, and keep out small animals. Both a light- and a heavy-weight cap are available.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1956

⚙️ **SEWING BASKET** for little girls from six to twelve combines child training with fun. Contained in a kit, the junior-miss seamstress basket contains a pin cushion, needle, sampler, embroidery hoop, scissors, thimble and floss.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1956

⚙️ **SPARK ARRESTOR** for oil drum trash cans keep sparks and fly ash in the can. Made of heavy galvanized sheet metal, the safety lid has a 14-inch section with 1,400 3/16-inch holes. The lid for trash barrels also has a five-inch aluminized steel handle.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1956

⚙️ **BATH HEAD REST** is made of quilted rubber and filled with shredded latex. Hair is kept dry while bathing and reading in the bathtub is made easier. The head rest is held in place by suction cups.

Science News Letter, September 29, 1956



## Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

### Autumn Changes

➤ WHAT has happened to the summer?

Even though the days may remain hot, there is a new coolness in the night. The rains put a chill into the air that was absent only a few weeks ago. Leaves take on tints of color now, causing reds and browns and yellows to mingle with summer's green hue.

Birds that relished solitude a short time ago have suddenly come together in small or large flocks. They have a new set of sleek feathers and their bodies are plump with fat.

Even humans seem to have shaken off something of their summer lethargy to walk with a brisker step.

A change is in the air, the coming of the season that prepares for an even greater change. Autumn is here.

Already there have been news reports



that the first snows of this season have fallen on mountain and northern states. Those creatures of the regions where autumn is brief and winter comes early have already made their arrangements for the period of snow, ice and little food. In the more temperate areas, the autumn change at hand has signaled the start of preparations for winter.

The grasshopper who persists in singing even into the autumn will die soon, her hopes for the future resting in eggs carefully laid in the protective earth. The ant and other provident creatures, such as the squirrel, are busier than ever now, storing food in the pantry for the long winter. Others, such as the bear, combine forethought with pleasure as they devour great quantities of food to be stored as body fat and used during the winter sleep.

In the far south, autumn is not taken so seriously by many animals. It is just a pleasanter time to live—not too hot, not too cold. Winter holds little terror for them, since there will probably be enough food for all, including the migrant birds and animals that move south in winter.

It is interesting to remember that bird watchers "down south" rival each other to see the first robin of the season, a sure sign that winter is not far away—up north!

Science News Letter, September 29, 1956