

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **RUG SKID-PROOFER** can be applied to the underside of rugs by either brush or spray. A liquid rubber plastic, the hazard reducer can also be used to prevent fraying and to repair burned or stained areas without sewing. It dries tack-free, remains permanently flexible, and treated rugs can be washed.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956

⚙️ **SLIDE PROJECTOR** is available in both remote-controlled and manually-operated models. Both have a four-inch f/3.3 lens and a 500-watt lamp. The automatic slide changer inserts one slide, retracts and files the previous one and advances the next. They have provision for ten-degree elevation adjustments and one-degree leveling correction.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956

⚙️ **TIE HOLDER** is built into the tie. Button holes on the under side of the smaller tie end permit the entire tie to be clipped or buttoned to the shirt. The tie is designed so that the front-facing end is secretly attached to the buttoned-down end.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956

⚙️ **SAUCER ASHTRAY** is a miniature tray, as shown in the photograph. It fits onto any saucer's edge. Cigarette ashes, tea



bags, lemon slices or after-dinner mints can be placed in it. Saucers and cups are kept clean and neat.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956

⚙️ **WHEELED SNOW PLOW** eases back-bending, snow-shoveling tasks. The ad-

justable, all-steel shovel can have the angle of its blade changed by fingertip control of four springs. It rolls on six-inch rubber-tired wheels.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956

⚙️ **BAGGING MACHINE** for cleaning establishments works automatically. Cleaned and pressed garments are packaged in the transparent flexible film made from a polyethylene plastic. Still bagged, the garment is protected in the closet. Bags 24 inches wide and of any length are made by the machine in the store.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956

⚙️ **PHOTO SCALE** is a link-type ruler. Instead of reducing or enlarging the picture, the ruler is reduced or enlarged. The measuring device stretches from six inches to 24. Measurements read on the ruler are the final reproduction dimensions.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956

⚙️ **CODED PIPETTES** have a different color band each for quick identification. The pipettes have double-beveled tips that are tapered. They are available in both Mohr and serological types with six different bands: red, yellow, blue, green, black and white.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ A FEW YEARS AGO, the sea lamprey managed to invade the Great Lakes, where it apparently has established itself permanently.

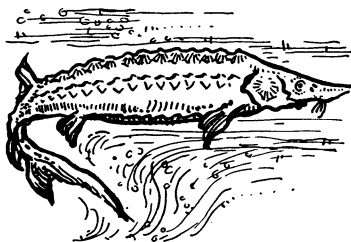
The lamprey is a predator living off other fish, to which it attaches by its sucker-like mouth and rasps away the flesh with a circle of razor-sharp teeth.

About the time of the sea lamprey invasion, catches of commercial fish in some of the lakes began to decline drastically. The blame for much of this spectacular decline was laid at the door of the lamprey, and probably correctly.

Vigorous measures are being taken by both the United States and Canada to bring the lamprey under control, and it looks as though success may soon come in the anti-lamprey campaign.

However, long before lampreys worked their way into the Great Lakes, commercial species there were declining.

Disappearing Fish



For example, in 1880 the catch of the lake sturgeon, *Acipenser rubicundus*, in the Great Lakes exceeded 7,000,000 pounds. By 1936, the annual catch had fallen to about 25,000 pounds. Certainly the sea lamprey could not be charged with this decline. What, then, had happened?

This sturgeon, which may grow to nearly seven feet in length and weigh about 200 pounds, is valuable both for its flesh and for

its eggs, from which caviar is made. It is clumsy and relatively easy to catch. Perhaps the fishermen just caught too many of them.

However, overfishing may not be all the story, either, just as the lamprey may not be all the story behind the present decline in the Great Lakes fisheries.

What was the role of pollution of the lakes and of the streams in which the sturgeon spawns? Did the growth of factories in the area, pouring out their wastes into the water, hasten the fall of the sturgeon there? Did the accumulation of silt eroded from poorly managed farm lands destroy the spawning places of the great fish?

It is safe to say there is more than one cause for any marked decline in any natural population of an area. One of the chief goals of enlightened conservation is to seek out and prevent as many of those detrimental causes as possible.

Science News Letter, October 6, 1956