

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

⚙️ **WEATHER MAP** features a physical map of the United States flanked by full color illustrations explaining cold front, warm front, thunderstorm, tornado, hurricane, typhoon and related topics. The wall map measures 29 inches by 42 inches.

Science News Letter, October 13, 1956

⚙️ **ELECTRIC GRIDDLE** is described as performing greaseless cooking with automatic, controlled heat. Providing a cooking surface of 168 square inches, the griddle can handle nine hamburgers, nine eggs or nine pancakes at one time. The heat adjustment ranges from room temperature to 430 degrees Fahrenheit.

Science News Letter, October 13, 1956

⚙️ **CHILDREN'S SLIPPERS** modeled after those worn by the legendary Robin Hood can be worn indoors or outdoors. They are made of a suede-like fabric, with the finish anchored in neoprene, a synthetic rubber. The slippers withstand scuffing, oils, grease, detergents, heat and sunlight.

Science News Letter, October 13, 1956

⚙️ **PARAKEET PLATFORM**, shown in the photograph, serves as a "landing strip" for man's popular feathered friend. The natural finish wood platform has a pocket with a metal bottom inside the cage for



feed or grit. The porch does not have to be removed to open or close the cage door.

Science News Letter, October 13, 1956

⚙️ **INTERIOR DOOR** slides and folds. The door panels can be of any width desired, and the doors may have two or more

panels of any height. Eliminating the need for hinged swinging doors, the panels can be made from solid wood, plywood, glass fiber, or any fabric that can be framed with wood.

Science News Letter, October 13, 1956

⚙️ **PORTABLE BELT CONVEYORS** are available in two heavy duty lines. The larger belt has a distributed load capacity of 4,000 pounds, with a minimum length of 26 feet, expandable to 43 feet. The smaller has a capacity of 1,000 pounds, is 15 feet in length, expandable to 25 feet. Both belts are 16 inches wide.

Science News Letter, October 13, 1956

⚙️ **ANTI-ROLL FIN** for fishing vessels and other small craft is described as cutting roll by 80%. A British device, the fin can be fitted or removed by a diver. Non-retractable, the fin has a small outreach to save weight and space.

Science News Letter, October 13, 1956

⚙️ **LABORATORY SPATULA** breaks up chemicals in large bottles and cleans reaction kettles. Made of stainless steel, the highly polished tool is ground thin at both ends, with one square and the other rounded. It is available in 12- and 18-inch models.

Science News Letter, October 13, 1956



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

► WHAT is the most ferocious creature on earth?

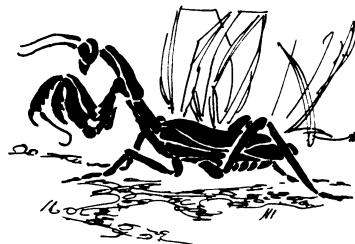
In search of candidates for this questionable honor, you might suggest the Bengal tiger, a lithe black leopard, a savage wolf or an enraged bull elephant. There are, however, other less evident contenders for the title.

The late H. G. Wells once said that, considering her size, the praying mantis is the most awe-inspiring of created beings when aroused.

Let us examine the praying mantis's qualifications.

First, she has a natural camouflage that allows her to stalk her prey as though she wore a cloak of invisibility. Her upper body is long and thin, like the stem of a bush, and her lower body is flattened and colored like a leaf.

Ferocity Contest



(The mantis is called "she" here, since the females devour the weaker males after mating. Certainly a female would represent the praying mantises in a ferocity contest.)

The first pair of legs of the mantis is formed with powerful toothed claws that can hold and crush prey her own size and

even larger. With these claws, the mantis can take a good "bite" from a human finger.

Her mouth is equipped with strong jaws capable of cutting easily through the hard exoskeleton of insect prey. To go with stealth, claws and terrible jaws, the praying mantis has an appetite that—taking size into account—would put a hungry tiger to shame. She can devour her own weight or more in food a day.

Then there is her temperament. Wells told about an encounter with an enraged mantis. The insect reared herself menacingly, brought her claws forward and rattled her wings to produce a "quite horrid hiss."

The great scientist and author confessed that he could no more have touched that menacing little beast than he could have walked up to a snarling tiger!

Science News Letter, October 13, 1956