

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SUGAR DISPENSER** automatically measures out one teaspoon or other desired amount. Made of spun metal, the container is said to be insect-, moisture- and spill-proof. The mechanism is guaranteed for a year.

Science News Letter, January 25, 1958

⚙️ **FISH FEEDER** automatically shakes into the aquarium the correct amount of food needed for periods as long as one year. The motor-driven cylindrical food container tumbles the fish food constantly to keep it from lumping. The motor's warmth keeps the food dry.

Science News Letter, January 25, 1958

⚙️ **VISUAL READING AID** is designed to stimulate children's interest in reading, spelling and vocabulary development. It consists of letters and units, color-coded to distinguish vowel and consonant sounds. To do a complete job for any spelling lesson or reading unit, 287 cut-outs are provided.

Science News Letter, January 25, 1958

⚙️ **ALUMINUM WINDOWS** have an integral fin-trim, shown in the photograph, for easy nailing or screwing into sheathing or framing without the use of additional



trim or positioning hardware. The fin is a broad extruded edge, pre-punched for nail placement.

Science News Letter, January 25, 1958

⚙️ **TRANSISTORIZED SERVOMECHANISM** provides a displacement output precisely related to a low voltage DC input. Designed as an extremely light, accurate

power-amplifying device, the self-contained units can be used for any applications where rotary or linear motion is required, replacing hydraulic systems.

Science News Letter, January 25, 1958

⚙️ **LAMP SHADE KIT** for do-it-yourself homemaker converts any bottle or decanter into a lamp. Included in the kit are a shade, a socket, eight feet of cord and an assortment of rubber plugs to fit the bottle top, as well as instructions for assembling and suggestions for decorations.

Science News Letter, January 25, 1958

⚙️ **AUTO LITTER CONTAINER** is molded of polyethylene plastic in a variety of colors to match or harmonize with car upholstery. It comes with a molded mounting bracket for quick fastening to any composition surface in the auto's interior and for easy emptying.

Science News Letter, January 25, 1958

⚙️ **METAL ADHESIVE** bonds rubber, plastic or fabric to metal. It provides a flexible, shock-resistant bond not affected by most oils, acids and alkalies. The adhesive is self-curing and can be applied by brush or coating machine.

Science News Letter, January 25, 1958



## Nature Ramblings

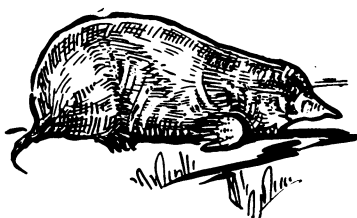


By HORACE LOFTIN

► **GARDENERS** too often make a mountain out of the long shallow mole hill that suddenly appears overnight across the lawn or through the flower beds. The mole hill may be a bit unsightly and the subterranean mole may uproot or disturb some plants in his industrious digging. But if you consider why the mole is digging so industriously, you may welcome both the mole and his distinctive hill!

The moles are members of the order of insect-eating mammals, Insectivora. There are two families of this order in the United States, the moles and the shrews, and each year these account for the death of thousands upon thousands of grubs, bugs, beetles and other destructive insects that live in the ground. Scientists have calculated that a single mole may consume something like 40,000 insects and worms a year. This is about 50 pounds of food

### The Insect Eaters



for an animal, pictured in the drawing, weighing perhaps one-ninth of a pound.

Someone has remarked that these creatures and their habits are practically unknown to most Americans and including the farm people. In one way this is hard to understand, since the shrews are one of the most numerous of our animals. Their diminutive size and secretive habits, however, may account for this paradox.

Even their general appearance helps to keep the shrews little known, for they

look so much like a tiny mouse that they often pass for one. A shrew may be distinguished from a mouse, however, by its very long, pointed snout and very tiny eyes. Its front teeth are not sharply marked into incisors, canines and molars.

The shrews are not tunnelers like their cousins the moles. They more often use old mole or mouse burrows in their underground wandering. This difference in habit is seen in their lack of powerful front feet adapted for digging such as characterize the moles.

The order Insectivora is made up of small animals, none larger than a cat. One shrew is only three inches in length, tail and all! They all have a primitive brain, with smooth cerebral hemispheres. The teeth are primitive and adapted for their insect-eating habits. The snout typically extends well beyond the end of the skull. The Insectivora have representatives in all the continents except Australia and Antarctica.

Science News Letter, January 25, 1958