

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 935. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **SAWHORSE LEGS** that fold can be attached to a standard wood two-by-four. A twin locking system holds the legs in either the folded or unfolded position. Made of aluminum, the legs are available in 20- or 30-inch heights.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

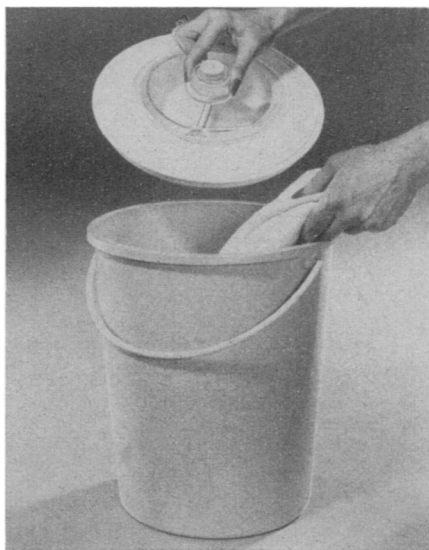
⚙️ **VERTICAL SHEET FILE** for single large sheets such as blueprints and maps permits individual filing. The file consists of a wall mounted bracket that holds up to 150 aluminum hangers. Tubular tape is attached to the sheet and it can then be slipped on or off the hanger. A cabinet is available.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

⚙️ **STAR POINTER** is a finding device that computes and points out 100 constellations, and other celestial objects. Designed for beginner or professional, the star locator comes complete with 36-page booklet of settings, charts and eight star maps.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

⚙️ **DIAPER CONTAINER PAIL** has a lid which, when raised, dispenses a few drops of a liquid that is said to prevent the formation of ammonia. The container, shown in the photograph, is made of a polyethylene



plastic and is available in a wide variety of colors. The pail is resistant to odors, moisture and acids, and can be washed.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

⚙️ **RETURNABLE CONTAINER** for use in the shipment of corrosive chemicals is made of plastic and steel. It consists of a

polyethylene inner container and a steel drum outer jacket. It is available in two sizes, the standard 14-gallon and a heavy duty 13-gallon.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

⚙️ **HAND-SIGHTING LEVEL** is operated like a telescope. It will provide a level line of sight for laying out driveways, gardens, ditches or establishing fence lines. The level is said to be accurate within one-third of one degree.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

⚙️ **INTERCOM CONTROL UNIT** converts any public address system to an intercom and paging system that will accommodate up to 40 remote locations. The unit requires no A.C. power and includes a volume control, talk-listen-program switch and an all-call switch. A built-in speaker serves as a microphone.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958

⚙️ **BATHTUB BABY SEAT** is anchored in the tub by four suction cups. Made of aluminum that is said to warm to the temperature of the water, the seat has a nonabsorbent vinyl plastic foam cushion. The seat also has a plastic safety belt.

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ THE TUNG TREE comes into beautiful flower early in spring, the beginning of a series of events leading to oil-rich tung nuts late in summer or fall. A few days after the flower buds begin to open, the ground under and around the tree becomes carpeted by thousands of snow-white blossoms touched with streaks of brownish red.

If you look at the tree branch where these flowers were attached, you will find only the naked stem. No young fruit remains behind to furnish the fall harvest. Where, then, do the nuts come from?

You have to take a second, closer look to learn the answer. It is the flower that did not fall to the ground that furnishes the nut. The great majority of the tung flowers, the ones that fall first, are of the male sex

Perfect and Imperfect



only. The remaining flowers are female. When fertilized, they give rise to the nuts that provide the next generation of tung plants.

The majority of flowering plants contain the organs of both sexes in each individual flower, as in the lily shown in the illustra-

tion. Single flowers with both stamens, the male element, and pistils, the female element, are termed "perfect" flowers.

Flowers such as the tung tree bears are called "imperfect," since each contains either stamens or pistils, but not both. A further distinction can be made in the sexuality of imperfect flowers. In some cases, such as with the tung, both male and female flowers occur on the same plant. This condition is called "monoecious," which means "one household."

In other plants with imperfect flowers, such as the willows and Christmas holly, the sexes occur separately, one individual plant producing all male flowers while another has only female flowers. These plants are termed "dioecious," meaning "two households."

Science News Letter, May 17, 1958