

New Machines And Gadgets

Novel Things for Better Living

The Nazi Blitz over the rough Russian roads may at this very moment be having its way somewhat smoothed by a motorcycle shock absorber invented by a German, patented in this country and assigned to a Munich automotive company. The wheel forks consist of concentric tubes which telescope into each other, but are held in normal position by a spring. A third inner tube is filled with a shock-absorbing fluid. A piston plunges into this fluid, when a jounce is encountered, pushing it out through small openings in the top into the space between the tubes, whence it returns to the bottom of the original tube, thus resisting the telescoping motion of the two outer tubes one on the other.

Removing the bark from a log while it is still floating in the river, may seem an impossible task. But it is neatly accomplished by a machine recently patented by an Oregon lumber man. The machine is mounted on a float, a chain is wound around the log spiral fashion, the machine pulls the log alongside the float and by continuing to pull on one end of the chain while slacking off on the other, causes the log to roll and move lengthwise against a cutter that shears off the bark.

Pack up your house and take it with you. Yes, you can really do it with a recently patented folding house. It folds into a flat rectangular box, just the right width to take on a trailer, but still wide and high enough to contain the furniture and much of your luggage. The floor folds in three sections, like the typewritten letters you get in a long envelope, so that when unfolded it is wider than the trailer.

Cat's whiskers for automobiles are provided by a recently patented invention. If the motorist wishes to squeeze through a narrow opening between two other cars or the entrance to his garage, he can shoot out four feelers, slender rods, one at each corner of his car. If something touches any of these feelers, the fact is at once indicated on the dashboard. When he doesn't need them, the motorist, like the cat, can pull in his feelers.

Amateur photographers who wish to make their own color prints will find the apparatus illustrated a very great help. In making such prints, three negatives have to be made, one corresponding to each of the three primary colors. If these negatives are not each of just the right density, the resulting color



print is a mess. The whole work may have to be done over several times before the right combination is struck. By putting the three "separation negatives" in the machine and turning on the red, blue and yellow lights, you can see at once exactly what the final print would look like. If the color balance is not good, dials can be turned which increase or diminish the various colors until the result exactly suits your taste. From the dial readings, the final print can be made. The three negatives can also be exactly registered in the machine before you begin to print.

Measuring out a level spoonful, ordinarily an inconvenient task for exact cooks or home chemists, is made more convenient by a double-ended spoon (two sizes in one implement), recently patented, that has a levelling blade pivoted at the middle of the handle. The blade can be swung all the way around and level off either spoonful.

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N. W., Washington, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 81.

Science News Letter, November 29, 1941

PUBLIC HEALTH

Eye Injuries In U. S. Total 1,000 a Day

EYE injuries in American industries are occurring at the rate of 1,000 every working day, and 98% of these hurts are wholly unnecessary, it is revealed in a study sponsored by the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness just published. (*Columbia University Press*).

Conserving eyesight of workmen is as vital to defense as building armament and training soldiers, declares Lewis H. Carris, director emeritus of the Society,

in a preface to the comprehensive study.

Eye injuries to workers, which total about 300,000 a year in factories, mills, mines and shops, cost the injured workmen and their communities \$100,000,000 a year and employers another \$100,000,000, says the report by the late Louis Resnick of the Society staff. Mr. Resnick's report was completed three days before his death last March. About 1,000 workers lose sight of one eye and 100 or more lose sight of both eyes in a year, the result of occupational hazards, he found. Many more have damaged sight.

"There is no need for the blinding of workers in American industry," Mr. Resnick concluded. "The industrial accident and disease hazards affecting the eyes are now commonly known. Methods of eliminating these hazards or of protecting workers against them have been thoroughly demonstrated. Devices which provide protection against almost every type of eye accident are now available."

Science News Letter, November 29, 1941

MEDICINE

Fat Men Found Prone To Knee Injuries

FAT MEN with weak muscles are most likely to injure their kneecaps, according to a study of 1,700 such injuries reported by Drs. Edward K. Cravener and Donald G. MacElroy of Schenectady, N. Y. (*Journal, American Medical Association*, Nov. 15).

Eighty-six per cent of the injuries occurred in men and boys and 14% in women and girls. Over 60% of the patients were overweight. Injuries to the knee cartilage were found to occur most commonly at about the twenty-ninth year of life.

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