

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **VENTILATED SHOE**, recently patented, makes use of a flexible lift on the heel whose movements, when the wearer is walking, forces air through an opening into the shoe under the person's heel. Air is drawn into a cavity in the heel through a valve-controlled intake.

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948

⚙️ **PRESSURE TANK** holds sufficient compressed air for home paint spraying equipment and other uses, and can usually be refilled free at any gasoline station. The 7- by 14-inch tank has a convenient folding carrying handle, and supports to hold it in a horizontal position.

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948

⚙️ **NIGHT LIGHT**, a one-watt baby fluorescent lamp, gives a soft white glow that illuminates a child's room without awakening the lightest sleeper. It has a two-prong base for plugging into a baseboard or wall outlet, and its cost of operating is claimed to be less than three cents a month.

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948



⚙️ **BABY COVER**, which also protects the carriage, makes it easy to take the youngster out for air in the rain. As shown in the picture, this well-tailored, transparent, plastic poncho, which zippers up the back, is fitted to keep everything dry.

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948

⚙️ **COFFEE MAKER**, an automatic electric French drip type, has its heating unit between the lower section, which may be used as a server, and the upper section into which cold water is put. It is made of heavy aluminum and contains no glass. The coffee is brewed at about 180 degrees Fahrenheit.

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948

⚙️ **WHEELED SPRAYER**, for applying liquid weed-killers, insecticides or fungicides to extensive lawns, has a seven-gallon tank, valveless circulating type pump, 10-inch rubber-tired wheels and a pushing handle easy to grip. Nozzles, placed low on the front of the tank are adjustable and deliver a flat fan spray.

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948

⚙️ **SOAP-HOLDING BRUSH**, with strap extensions to enable it to be used for scrubbing the back while in the shower or tub, has a meshed basket to hold the soap, and also a sponge. Loops on the ends of the straps of this recently patented device provide easy gripping.

Science News Letter, July 3, 1948

## Nature Ramblings by Frank Thone

BOTANY

### "Calling Names"

➤ "THOSE AWFUL long Latin names" are often offered as an explanation of reluctance to study botany or zoology. Yet the same person who gives this excuse will without hesitation order chrysanthemums, cinerarias or geraniums from the florist, or go out into the garden to plant nasturtiums, delphiniums and campanulas, or to prune philadelphus, forsythia and rhododendron bushes in the shrubbery. We manage all right with the long names we know; the unfamiliarity of new names, rather than their length, would seem to be the real stumbling-block.

Many of the botanical names that have been taken over "as is" into our common garden English are short even if Latin— or, more frequently, latinized Greek. Among them are iris, phlox, dahlia,



azalea, salvia, yucca, trillium, cosmos, geum, smilax, clematis, silene, lychnis, and dozens of others.

Many of other botanical names were the common names by which the ancients knew the same plants, were adopted as scientific names by early modern botanists, and have come over into English slightly modified—frequently by passage through French or Italian. Thus Rosa was turned into rose, Viola into violet, Pisum into pea, Pinus into pine,

Ulmus into elm, Papaver into poppy. Mentha into mint, and so on. A most interesting sequence is from Greek Lirion into Latin Lilium, thence into English lily.

Some botanical names are actually shorter than their English opposites. It takes less time to say Nymphaea than it does to say water-lily, Convallaria than lily-of-the-valley, Smilacina than false Solomon's seal, Specularia than Venus' looking-glass.

A few of the longer plant names have been cut down to monosyllables by florists, for convenience in reference and display advertising, like "mums" for chrysanthemums and "glads" for gladioli. The surprising thing is that there are so few such trade terms. You never hear geraniums called "yums", or centaureas referred to as "cents", or aspidistras shortened to "asps".

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