

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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☛ **TUMBLERS FOR ICED DRINKS**, on the outsides of which moisture does not collect, look like glass but are made of a transparent plastic, and are double-walled with an air space between. This air space acts also as insulation, keeping the iced beverage cold longer as well as keeping the outer surface dry and warmer to the touch.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

☛ **PORTABLE CLOTHES DRIER**, housed in a dress-suit-like case, contains an extensible rack of the ordinary hinged type, and an electric heating unit with fan fixed in the case. In use, the case is laid on the proper side, opened, the rack extended and the cord of the electric unit plugged in an ordinary electric outlet.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

☛ **ELECTRIC WATER HEATER** for the home or laboratory has within it a magnesium rod to protect the tank itself from corrosion. Certain types of water that normally corrode and disintegrate tanks will, through electrolytic action, affect the magnesium rod instead.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

☛ **HAMMERS** with plastic striking faces, which can be used without danger of mar-



ring surfaces of aluminum, other soft metals and highly polished wood, have the driving power of standard machinist hammers of equal weight. Their plastic faces, shown in the picture, are of a special

vinylite and are fitted over drop-forged heads.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

☛ **BATHROOM TRAY** fits under the closet tank and catches and drains off tank drippings sometimes produced by condensation of moisture on the outside of the flush water container. Made of steel and aluminum with a white enamel finish, it is easily inserted.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

☛ **RUBBER STALL**, a band to be worn on thumb or finger by filing clerks when sorting papers or by bank clerks counting currency, is made of pure gum rubber with an aluminum adjuster to regulate size. It eliminates the need of wetting the thumb and, being a band, causes little if any sweating.

Science News Letter, September 18, 1948

☛ **UNICYCLE-RIDING** tiny clown, with an aluminum drum on which it rides, has magnetic shoes which follow a revolving magnet inside the drum. A crank on the side of the drum, not only revolves the magnet but also operates a music box so that the clown rides to music.

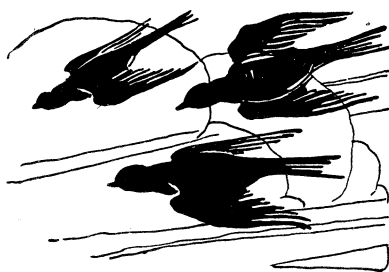
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• Nature Ramblings by Frank Thone •

➤ **ANIMALS** prepare their escapes from the hardships of winter in an astonishingly wide variety of ways. Literal flight from the region where cold and want will prevail is perhaps the most conspicuous of these evasive actions. The autumn migrations of birds and their return in spring have been watched with wonder by all peoples since the dawn of history—and presumably even before that. Other winged creatures have their migrations also, though less is known about them because of greater difficulties in observation. Vast flocks of butterflies are often seen winging their way southward in autumn—often to apparently sure death over the sea. Bats, too, are said to migrate at least short distances to the caves where they will hibernate.

Hoofed animals also migrate, though their movements are more likely to be in altitude rather than in latitude. Elk, moose, bighorn, mountain goats and other big-game species usually spend the summer months in the higher mountains and pla-

Flight From Winter



teaus, where there are better pastures and fewer tormenting insects. When winter impends they come down into the valleys where there will be better shelter from storms and where shallower snows make movement and search for food less difficult. Some species also shift in latitude, notably the caribou and other animals of the sub-Arctic.

Hibernation is another common device. In varying degrees, it is used by animals ranging in size from mosquitoes to bears.

The winter sleep of some is profound and almost death-like. Ground-squirrels and other small mammals are limp, cold to the touch, and insensitive to noises, shaking and even pin-pricks when dug out of their winter burrows. Bears, on the other hand, are likely to be rather light sleepers, coming out of their dens for short prowls during spells of mild weather.

There is as much variety in hibernation among insects as there is among larger animals. Queen bumblebees, for example, dig in as snugly as the fabulous ground-hog, and sleep as profoundly. A few butterflies, notably the beautiful mourning-cloak, merely cling in some chink of bark or tangle of twigs, and flit about when mid-winter thaws raise the temperature at which insects can be active. Other lurkers that make no special preparations for winter sleep are occasional flies, some mosquitoes, and many kinds of spiders. You are apt to see these creatures on the move at almost any time during the winter.

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