

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **AUTOMATIC defroster**, for the electric household refrigerator, is a relatively small device which is plugged into an electric outlet and into which the refrigerator cord is plugged. It eliminates the necessity of hand defrosting, maintains a thin film of frost on the freezing unit and prevents ice from accumulating on it.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1948

⚙️ **SHOCK-ABSORBING HAMMER**, recently patented, absorbs the rebound when a working surface is struck. The head, in two parts that screw together, has an elongated hollow on the inside which contains air and a slidable bolt-like part. Vents open from the air spaces at each end of the bolt to permit air movement in and out.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1948

⚙️ **LIQUID CARBONATOR**, to charge an individual glass of water or other liquid with carbon dioxide with the use of dry ice, consists of a drinking glass which has a disk of sponge or porous glass set in its bottom and a shallow base into which the glass fits. A tiny piece of dry ice placed in the base discharges gas which passes through the porous inset.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1948



⚙️ **SMALL circular valve**, shown in the hose line near the facepiece, permits oxygen to flow into a patient's lungs with intermittent positive pressure. It interrupts delivery of oxygen when the capacity of

the lungs has been reached and permits normal exhalation with suction.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1948

⚙️ **SNOWPLOW WAX**, applied to plow moldboards and wings with a spray gun or with an ordinary paintbrush, creates a hard, slick surface off which the snow slides easily. It prevents the so-called snow piling which means costly clearing delays.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1948

⚙️ **TOBACCO PIPE**, to give a mentholated smoke when desired, has a vaporizing chamber in its duraluminum stem into which a menthol ointment is placed. Unburned menthol vapor is picked up by the smoke as it is drawn through the stem.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1948

⚙️ **BABY BOTTLE WARMER** and vaporizer combined is an electrically heated unit which when plugged into the ordinary household electric outlet forces hot water up through sidewalls and plays it against the sides of a contained bottle. For use as a vaporizer, a special cap is inserted in the top of the bottle warmer.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1948

• Do You Know? •

Metals five to ten times stronger than those of today are predicted.

Good food value is saved when potatoes are boiled whole in their skins.

Approximately 90% of the shellfish, principally clams, produced in Canadian Maritime Provinces is shipped to the United States.

The giant redwood and other trees of the coniferous group are rated by scientists as evolutionally less advanced than the humble dandelions and sweet peas of our lawns and gardens.

Bee losses in northern states are heavy during some winters, death coming from starvation, not cold weather; a normal bee colony may need as much as 90 pounds of honey to carry it through a long, cold winter.

Bamboos, some of which get to be 40 feet high, are rated by botanists as grasses.

Experts suggest covering newly laid water pipes with straw or hay during the first winter, even if they are installed below frost level; the earth fill over them is loose for a year or so and frost may go deeper than otherwise.

The 56 firms producing motor vehicles in the United States are supplied by more than 1,000 parts plants.

Nearly three-fourths of the fertilizer elements in the feed livestock eat is returned for re-use in the manure.

A 14,000-mile wildfowl survey was made from the air during the past summer over the Arctic slope of Alaska and the Canadian Northwest Territories.

Sunflower and safflower seed are coming into such increased uses in the United States for feed and oils that official grain standards have been established by one state, at least; this is Minnesota.

Fish in farm ponds grow more rapidly if the pond is fertilized; the fish do not consume the fertilizer directly, but they derive the benefit of increased growth of plankton, the tiny water plants which are their major source of food.

If automobiles had been invented 25 years earlier, it is a question if they could have developed enough power to move their massive engines because of the lack of proper alloy steel.

Science News Letter, November 27, 1948

Goggles coated with allyl sucrose, a sugar, are being tested by welders; the treated goggles may be used for many hours without changing, it appears.

The world's standard meter is a bar of platinum-iridium preserved in a deep underground vault near Paris, protected in a triple case of glass, hard rubber and wood.

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