

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., Washington 6, D. C. and ask for Gadget Bulletin 446. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **CONVERTIBLE SKATE**, recently patented, has a footplate to which wheel trucks for roller skating, or a blade for ice skating, can be quickly attached. With the present high cost of shoe skates, this device lessens expense by making only one pair of shoes necessary.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

⚙️ **PERFUME MEASURE**, adaptable to volume measurement of any liquid, is designed to measure exactly one dram full measure. Its measuring chamber, into which liquid is sucked by a rubber bulb, has a pick-up tube extending below, whose top projects inside just far enough to hold one dram in the chamber.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

⚙️ **COLORED LIGHT**, for showcases and other applications, is obtained by a clip that fits over ordinary spotlight reflector lamps, and holds any one of 17 different colored filters. The interchangeable filters are made in four parts to allow for heat expansion and heat escape.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

⚙️ **KITCHEN MITTS**, usable in household chores including dish-washing as shown in the picture, give the hands complete protection and complete freedom of



action. They are made of a transparent light-weight, durable, flexible plastic, which is unaffected by grease, acids or stains.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

⚙️ **CLOTHESLINE TIGHTENER** is a cadmium-plated, zinc-alloy device about two inches long with an opening on one end to slip over the post hook. The line,

without knotting, is passed through an opening at the other end, where it is grasped by a notched lever which can be "pumped" to remove all slack.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

⚙️ **CLOSET SPACE saver** is a hinged arm, to hold a dozen dress hangers, which can be turned upward with a push from one end to bring the clothes close together without crushing and wrinkling. It can be easily attached to any wall.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

⚙️ **AUTOMOBILE LAMP tester**, for use in service stations and salesrooms, has a six-volt transformer and five sizes of outlets which enable it to be used for checking the entire line of automobile lamps from the tiny instrument panel bulb to the sealed beam headlamp and the automotive spotlight.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

⚙️ **AUTOMOBILE WASHER** uses a portable tank and a method of feeding either wash solution or rinse water through a hose to a rotating scrub brush which is held by the hand. The tank, which increases the pressure of the city water supply, also provides the power to cause the brush to rotate.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

Locust and Kentucky coffee trees belong to the legume family, along with peas, beans and clover.

Bituminous coal and lignite production in the United States during 1947 was 10,000,000 tons greater than ever before.

Science News Letter, January 1, 1949

## • Do You Know? •

Cooking utensils were the first major use of aluminum.

There are 6,324 airports in the United States, of which 403 are military.

Silicone paint is used with a high degree of success to prevent smokestack corrosion.

Silicones, produced from organic matter and sand, were first accepted industrially because of their exceptional heat stability.

Black walnut trees do not injure potatoes, tomatoes and other crops grown under them as many believe; recent scientific tests made by the government clear the nut trees of the bad reputation.

A 50-kilowatt FM (Frequency Modulation) radio broadcast transmitter recently installed near Milwaukee is affording excellent reception to listeners within a radius of 105 miles, it is claimed.

The Mexican desert *jojoba* is suggested as a commercial crop in the American arid southwest; this four-foot shrub bears a

valuable bean which contains a remarkable wax suitable for many uses.

Fume-proof paints owe their name to the fact that they contain no pigments that form dark-colored sulfides in the presence of sulfur gases; they usually contain titanium dioxide and zinc oxide.

When cabbage is made into sauerkraut, the salt sprinkled on the shredded cabbage draws out sugar which is turned to acid and other by-products by the bacteria, yeasts and molds which are usually plentiful on the cut shreds.

Foot defects are more common among women than men if conditions among students in one college are general; in this institution 12% of the men had foot defects and 29% of the women, recent physical examinations showed.

What are called "hard" seeds, common in alfalfa, clover, vetch and similar seed stock, do not germinate when first sown but may lie dormant for years; they often germinate later when the land has been planted to another type of crop.

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