

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PAINT SPRAYER** for household use, which can be used also to handle disinfectants or any sprayable material, is a four-pound unit including a quart paint container and an electric motor. It is easily held in one hand with its pistolgrip and it operates on the ordinary household electric current.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

⚙️ **LIGHT-WEIGHT WRENCHES**, of the pipe-wrench type, are made of aluminum with jaws of steel, and weigh less than half as much as older types in use. This aluminum product has the necessary strength to meet and surpass any ordinary requirements in heavy use.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

⚙️ **RULER FOR USE** in ringbinder type notebooks has circular openings and slots so that it can be slid into the binder without opening the rings. The light-weight, transparent plastic ruler is suitable for pencil and ink ruling both on flat and curved surfaces.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

⚙️ **DICTATING MACHINE**, an improved type shown in the picture, uses a seven-inch vinylite plastic disk which records 30 min-



utes of dictation and is light enough to mail for three cents. To put a disk on it, the cover is flipped open and the disk slipped into place, a one-hand operation.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

⚙️ **REFLECTIVE TAPE**, for use on the rear and sides of buses and automobiles to make them visible at night, comes in rolls

of plastic sheeting in which are embedded millions of microscopic glass beads and has an adhesive backing.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

⚙️ **DRY WALL KIT**, for use in the home to repair gypsum wallboard joints, includes 60 feet of reinforcing tape, five pounds of joint cement, and a tough, resilient spreading knife made of a plastic. Knife and handle are molded in one piece, making the tool practically unbreakable.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

⚙️ **POSTAL SCALE**, fountain-pen size and equipped with a clip to hold it in a pocket, is designed for weighing letters, and has on it an automatic first-class and airmail calibration chart.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

⚙️ **POWER TIMING LIGHT**, for on-the-spot automobile ignition tests in broad daylight, is equipped with a brilliant stroboscopic bulb, similar to those used in high-speed photography, and is set in a synthetic rubber case for protection against electric shock.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1949

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## Do You Know?

Aluminum production is dependent upon a reliable and steady supply of electricity.

The Soviet Union has become Australia's sixth largest wool buyer.

Australia has one farm of 260,000 acres with 30,000 acres of it under cultivation.

North Dakota claims to be the number one American barley-producing state.

Oysters are good to eat the year around, but from May to September fewer are marketed because this is the spawning season.

In the process of making whiskey from grain only the starch is removed; the other nutrients are recovered and may be used for stock feed.

Fatal accidents in bituminous coal mines in America during 1948 caused some 200 less deaths than in 1947, which amounted to 990.

In properly mixed concrete every particle of the sand, gravel or crushed rock used is completely coated with the cement paste.

Romans developed a cement centuries ago satisfactory for construction; following the fall of the Roman Empire cement-making became a lost art until 18th-century scientists began working with hydraulic limes.

White oils, made from petroleum, are colorless like water; they have many uses including lubrication, as an ingredient in medicine, cosmetics and insecticides, and in rubber-compounding, paper, rayon and cattle and tree sprays.

Advantages of ramie fiber, now being grown in America, include the fact that it is several times stronger than cotton and has high immunity to shrinkage, mildew and abrasions; it can be combined easily with such fibers as cotton and rayon.

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