

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **BATTERY FEEDER**, to keep the automobile battery in good operating condition during cold months, is plugged overnight into an ordinary 110-volt electric outlet and into the cigar-lighter receptacle on the car's dashboard. The device supplies a slight current to the battery through the ignition system.

Science News Letter, February 5, 1949

⚙️ **PARACHUTE WATCH**, a Swiss development, is said to eliminate the human element in pulling the ripcord to permit the life-saving device to open. A dial is set to open the parachute at the altitude desired; a wire loop is pulled out automatically when the jump is made; this sets the watch to ticking.

Science News Letter, February 5, 1949

⚙️ **SOUND RECORDING** of a patient's heart-beat is made on a safety film which, without processing, is ready for instantaneous playback through earphones or auditorium type loud speaker. A hundred sound tracks, each up to one hour in length, can be made on each face of a film.

Science News Letter, February 5, 1949

⚙️ **SPONGE MITTENS** for cleaning windows to dishes, shown in the picture, have one face of a long-lasting cellulose



sponge, and the other of a chamois-like material. The sponge can hold an enormous amount of water, but can be squeezed almost dry, and can be safely boiled to sterilize it.

Science News Letter, February 5, 1949

⚙️ **MASKING SOLUTION**, to use on glass or wood when painting to prevent paint from getting where not wanted, is applied with a brush to the surface to be protected and later removed by peeling.

When applied, the solution dries in about 10 seconds, and the adjoining surface is then ready for painting.

Science News Letter, February 5, 1949

⚙️ **TELEPHONE AID** is a small radio-size cabinet device to place on an office desk with the speaker-receiver of the ordinary telephone hand-set positioned on its top. It amplifies incoming telephone conversations to loud-speaker volume, and picks up outgoing messages even when the speaker is several feet away.

Science News Letter, February 5, 1949

⚙️ **BABY HOLDER**, to restrain infants from rolling out of bed, consists of a belt, a strap to pass between the legs, and two cross tapes which are fastened at their center to the rear of the belt with the ends tied to the sides of the bed. This recently patented device permits considerable free motion.

Science News Letter, February 5, 1949

⚙️ **TRAILER HITCH** is an improved type made of cast steel, heavily chromium-plated, with its under part in a boat-keel shape which enables it to ride over obstructions without hooking onto them. Its cadmium-plated, rust-proof hitching ball is fitted with a streamlined cap to assure eye-appeal.

Science News Letter, February 5, 1949

Do You Know?

Death adders of Australia are deadly snakes seldom over two feet long.

Pruning and trimming of common shade trees, with the exception of maples, can be done now; maples may bleed.

The flap-neck chameleon of tropical Africa can roll his two eyes in different directions.

Blood tests for venereal diseases are now required of prospective brides and grooms before a marriage license is issued in 36 states.

The lightest coating of snow or hoar frost on the top surface of the wing of an airplane may make take-off extremely hazardous or even impossible.

In the normal, healthy individual, most of the nerve fibers are covered throughout their entire length with a fatty sheath called myelin, whether they be in the brain, spinal cord or in the body proper.

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