

• 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 453. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **TEMPERATURE regulator** for the house is an instrument attached outside the building and wired into the regular room thermostat as any other clock switch would be wired. It is a weather-actuated control of night setback of building temperatures that anticipates the need for heat and automatically starts heating earlier the colder it is outdoors.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1949

⚙️ **OFFSET PRINTING** directly from pasted-up layouts eliminates costly negatives and photographic plates. The big difference between the new process and the old method is that the pasteup goes right on the press. Proofing, as well as camera equipment and other usual offset necessities, are cut out.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1949

⚙️ **SANDPAPER HOLDER**, for use in all types of hand sanding, is a plastic block which holds a roll of paper, and has a wire clasp to release a new length of paper when one becomes worn out. It is available in seven-inch and five-inch sizes with refill rolls of sandpaper.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1949

⚙️ **TRANSMITTING TUBE**, a 25,000-watt type used to bring radio programs from station to home, has had its weight reduced 56% by the substitution of aluminum for



copper made possible by an aluminum-to-steel bonding process. The radiator fins that disperse the heat of the tube are shown in the picture.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1949

⚙️ **DRINKING CUP** for the youngster is silver-plated on copper and has a flared lip around the entire rim so that at what-

ever point the child drinks, his lip is fitted to the cup in a natural position that ends spilling and mess. The graceful cup may be used as a cigarette holder when no longer needed by the child.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1949

⚙️ **SNOW SLED**, with either skis or wheels on the front and caterpillar traction on the rear, is an engine-driven over-snow vehicle that slides on the snow and also depends on the weight of the vehicle for traction. An open link grouser track moves around the outside of its rear pontoon runners, and the broad pontoon shoes slide on the snow.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1949

⚙️ **WIRE STRIPPER**, to remove insulation from wires of ordinary sizes, is a tubular handle with an end piece which has a V-shaped slot in its center. Its cutting edges grasp and remove the insulation without damage to the wire.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1949

⚙️ **SPORTS CAP**, with a rigid green plastic visor to admit light and keep out glare, has a zipper pocket on the front of the crown to hold various small items when a coat is not worn. On top of the visor, when desired, are welded loops for golf tees or fish flies.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1949

The federal government is considering a plan to raise the level of Eklutna Lake, near Anchorage, Alaska, about two feet by a low dam, and use the water to develop electrical energy for military and industrial purposes.

Science News Letter, February 19, 1949

• Do You Know? •

Some sunflower seed yields 30% of its weight in edible oil.

Blind pedestrians have the legal right of way over motorists in 16 American states.

Wormwood is the source of an oil used externally to warm muscles.

America imports tea wastes from China for the manufacture of caffeine.

Popular gold jewelry is usually about 14 karat, while pure gold is 24 karats.

Electric eels have an attack power up to 600 volts.

Texas, Louisiana, California and Oklahoma rank in that order in the production of natural gas.

There are some 20,000,000 acres of land in America that would profit from irrigation.

India is to have a new aluminum production factory; the country is said to have a plentiful supply of suitable domestic bauxite.

To encourage peanut cultivation in the Dominican Republic, agricultural machinery is being made available by the government to farmers at a nominal charge.

Jewelry stamped with the abbreviations Plat, Pall, Irid, Rhod or Ruth contain respectively platinum, palladium, iridium, rhodium or ruthenium.

Lady finger potato, still grown as a curiosity in the United States but of practically no commercial value, is about the size of a short, stubby finger of a man.

A man-made shipping channel 50 miles long, connecting Houston, Texas, with the Gulf of Mexico, is responsible for that city being perhaps the third ranking deep-sea port in the United States.

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