

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **EYEGLASS case** is made of a clear transparent plastic which is strong enough to protect its contents under any ordinary conditions. The case is made of two pieces, hinged on one long side.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1949

⚙️ **LEMON SORTER** utilizes an electric eye to size and shape the fruit at a rate of 240 per minute. The lemons drop from a moving belt through an opening to cut the beam from the photocell. One of five doors is opened by the electronic device, depending upon the size of the shadow cast by each lemon.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1949

⚙️ **TYPEWRITER RIBBON** makes possible perfectly typed letters but typing errors can be completely eradicated with the use of a liquid made for the purpose. A treatment lasting only a second or two leaves the paper clear without smudge, and there is nothing to drop into the machine as when an eraser is used.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1949

⚙️ **FLOWER-POT container**, shown in the picture, is made of a decorative, water-resisting plastic, and is designed to hold water to reach the plant by absorption. The plastic form is rigid enough to resist warping, and



it is also resistant to grease and oils, and may be easily cleaned.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1949

⚙️ **CLOTHING ROD**, for an automobile, is designed to fit across the space in the rear of the car with its ends attached above the rear doors. It can be installed in five

seconds without the use of tools by a simple screw adjustment, with a left-hand thread on one end and a right-hand thread on the other.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1949

⚙️ **COMBINATION HAMMER** or drill, electrically operated, is small enough to be used in hard-to-get-at places, light enough to hold at arm's length but powerful enough to hit heavy blows or to drill holes quickly in brick, cement and stone. The drill rotates in action so that it will cut perfectly rounded holes.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1949

⚙️ **MOTION PICTURE** and sound machine, small and light enough to be carried in a luggage-type case, permits a salesman to present the story of his product in any office with an ordinary electric outlet. It uses 16-millimeter film, and has a film magazine that eliminates the need for rewinding after each use.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1949

⚙️ **MOTH PROTECTION** in the clothes closet is obtained with a device that consists of a protective pad, wire hanger, and a chemical housed in a plastic case. The killer chemical used is paradichlorobenzene, which is heavier than air and will travel downward to penetrate all clothing in the closet.

Science News Letter, March 26, 1949

Wool and hosiery are the principal export products of the *Shetland Islands*.

The 300 wood-pressing plants in the United States are saving the country at least 11,000,000 board feet of lumber a day; wood properly treated with tested chemicals has a service life some four times as great as otherwise.

## • Do You Know? •

Fluorescent lamps were commercially introduced just 10 years ago.

Soil type is a dominant factor in the quality of the tobacco grown.

Aldehydes, alcohols, acids and phenols are among substances identified as constituents in coffee aroma.

The roasting of coffee beans is the equivalent of the dry destructive distillation of a woody material; new compounds are produced in the process.

Siamese twins among fishes are not exceptionally rare; these twin fishes joined together seldom live more than a few weeks.

Twenty-nine men have lost their lives during the past 50 years in trying to reach the top of *Nanga Parbat*, an ice-sheathed, isolated, five-mile-high mountain in northwestern India.

Filbert nuts yield a nutritious salad and cooking oil.

Over 1,500,000 G.I. loans have been made by the U. S. Veterans Administration.

Sodium chlorite has been used for several years as a stripping agent to remove dye from textiles.

There are 1,212 vessels in the privately-owned American ocean-going fleet, of which nearly 500 are tankers, employed principally in the oil industry.

Wisconsin has a fee of 25 cents every four years for a license to drive an automobile, while in Connecticut and New Jersey the fee is \$3 a year.

Tartary buckwheat, often called duck wheat or rye buckwheat, contains larger amounts of rutin than other varieties; this drug is widely used in testing high blood pressure cases.

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