

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SAFETY RECEPTACLES**, for use as electric outlets in the home, are safe for children because the current flows only when standard or polarized caps are inserted. It has four insulated rollers within, two of which must be engaged at the same time to energize the unit.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1949

⚙️ **PARACHUTE TESTER**, for the U. S. Air Force, whirls a parachute around a 120-foot tower at speeds up to 500 miles an hour. Folded parachutes will be placed in a bomb-shaped container attached to a revolving boom at the top of the tower, and discharged into the air at the proper time by a special device.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1949

⚙️ **LADDER HOOK** for painters and window washers is a cast aluminum device which fits over a ladder rung and around both edges of the ladder side, providing double hooks to hold the pail. The bucket is held out of the user's way on the outside of the ladder and can not sway because of the two hooks.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1949

⚙️ **MAGIC HANDLE** on a vacuum cleaner carries within finger-tip all operating controls, as shown in the picture. Under it is a remote-control lever which releases the



entire cleaner handle to any desired position, and on the top are a two-speed switch and a button which automatically reels in the cord.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1949

⚙️ **DRY-ICE REFRIGERATOR**, recently patented, uses both this solid carbon dioxide and water ice, so disposed as to cooperate

for efficient and long-lasting cooling effect. It provides isolated users, far from electric lines, with natural ice. There are no drippings from the refrigerator because the melted water ice is refrozen for re-use.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1949

⚙️ **COOKIE CUTTER** turns out cookies that look like the top of a birthday cake, with irregular scalloping suggesting home-made icing, and the words "Happy Birthday" on their tops. The cutters are made of colored or transparent plastic.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1949

⚙️ **SHOWER BATH-BRUSH**, with nylon bristles twisted into wire to form a curved oval surface, has a thin plastic tube set in the middle of the bristles from which water is sprayed on them and the body. A five-foot non-kinking white rubber tube connects the brush to the faucet.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1949

⚙️ **RIPPER** that fits into the needle bar of any sewing machine is claimed to take out seams as fast as an ordinary needle puts them in. The device is a tiny honed and angled knife-like instrument that separates the weave in fabric without cutting the cloth but slices the taut bobbin stitch.

Science News Letter, May 7, 1949

Do You Know?

The majority of paved airports in the United States are of asphalt.

Large sugar maples may yield from 30 to 40 gallons of sap in a single season, enough to make some three quarts of maple syrup.

Invasions by mice, which resulted in the destruction of crops and brought epidemics of disease, are referred to in Greek and Roman classical writings.

In atomic energy plants, radiation warning instruments have nicknames such as Cutie-Pie, Pluto, Poppy, Fish-Pole and Walkie-Squawkie; essentially, they are forms of the Geiger counter, the instrument used to detect radioactivity.

Postwar university and college enrolment is indicated by the number of degrees awarded by American institutions during the year ended June 30, 1948; including bachelor's, master's and doctor's degrees, they totaled over 318,000.

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