

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 978. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **SCREW-IN EXPOSURE METER** is made to fit all turret eight-millimeter movie cameras. The meter's needle is calibrated from 6 ASA to 200 ASA. Diaphragm-opening indications range from $f/1$ to $f/32$. The unit comes complete with a sunshade and a protective screw-in cap.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1959

⚙️ **KITCHEN UTENSIL SET** consists of a ladle, vegetable spoon and basting spoon, all of high-density polyethylene. All three are high heat-resistant, impervious to chemicals, and cannot be attacked by foodstuffs or detergents. They come in red, yellow or ivory.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1959

⚙️ **GRADUATED GLASS CYLINDER**, equipped with a metal shield and handle for protection against corrosive chemicals, has a "pour out" lip and is resistant to heat and shock. Two slits in the shield extend down the length of the cylinder to facilitate easy reading of the measurement scale. The cylinder is for use in laboratories, research centers and schools.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1959

⚙️ **LITTLE GIRL'S HANDBAG** of polyethylene plastic is made to resemble fine lace. The bag, shown in the photograph, is



sturdy and washable, and comes in white, pink, blue, red and yellow. It may be hung over the arm by a snap-on carrying strap, or carried without strap as a clutch.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1959

⚙️ **CHART TYPEWRITER** enables any typist to type complex chart material and save hours of work with pen and ink. The keyboard has a normal upper-case alphabet and figures. Instead of lower-case letters, it

has 27 different chart symbols, such as shadings for bar graphs. An attachment permits typing on any kind of chart paper.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1959

⚙️ **CELLULAR CONCRETE**, strong enough for house walls, partitions and roofs, is claimed to be so light that it floats. Panels of the concrete provide structural strength, their own insulation and external finishing surfaces. Exterior or interior decorative material may be bonded to the panels.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1959

⚙️ **REMOTE-CONTROL MOUNTS** for television cameras are designed for heavy acoustical and weather-proof housings, which are required when TV cameras are used for outdoor surveillance or near rocket or jet-engine test stands. Compact motors and worm gears in the mounts turn and tilt the camera in response to signals from a control panel.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1959

⚙️ **FISHING LINE FASTENERS** for spin fishing, casting or trolling are of stainless steel and weigh 1/120 ounce each. About the length of a hairpin, the fasteners attach to the end of the line and hold lures. They increase line strength up to 50% over any knot.

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Nature Ramblings



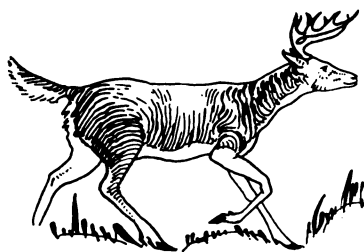
By HORACE LOFTIN

► FROM THE turning-point of winter on into early spring, our American species of deer lose the antlers that have adorned the males through the previous year. Then for the space of a few weeks, the bucks are scarcely distinguishable from their mates.

But for most species new antlers begin to bud out from the frontal bone of the skull about the first of April. Growth is extremely rapid, and the white-tailed deer of the eastern United States may gain a complete new set within 14 weeks.

Antlers are made of true bone, unlike the horns of cattle, antelope, etc., which are specialized structures from the skin. The first spikes begin to appear when the young buck is about 18 months old. The sprouting antlers of young and old deer are covered with a growth of skin, the "velvet," which protects them and furnishes blood for growth.

Antlers



Late summer and early fall usually see the fulfillment of growth of the antlers. The bone has become hard throughout, and the bucks busy themselves in scraping off the velvet against limbs and trunks of trees.

The number of points in an antler is no accurate indication of the age of a deer. The first set is usually of a single spike. Thereafter the addition of points is irregu-

lar. While the older deer generally have more points than younger ones, those in an advanced age may actually begin to have a reduced number of points. The antlers of young deer are relatively smooth. Through the years, however, each set becomes rougher and rougher, until at old age the deer's antlers may be covered with bony bumps and ridges.

When the time comes for the annual shedding of antlers, there is a softening of the bone near the place where they issue from the skull and a loose tissue forms there. Then, by their own weight or by contact with a tree or other obstacle, the antlers separate from the skull and fall to earth.

Early spring is a good time to hunt for these discarded antlers on the floor of a deer-inhabited forest. But you will have to be quick in finding them, for they are a preferred food of porcupines, rabbits and mice.

Science News Letter, March 14, 1959