

• New Machines and Gadgets •

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WINDOW TINTER, consisting of a liquid plastic in a range of eight colors, may be applied to window panes while in place. It dries in 30 to 40 minutes and can be washed without scratching, peeling or chipping. Tinting, it is claimed, can save on air-conditioning and heating costs and afford good sun control.

Science News Letter, October 31, 1959

PAINT SOLVENT is said to keep paint-soaked brushes soft for weeks or months. It is a gelled liquid that chemically "lubricates" fresh paint to prevent it from drying on brushes. One dip preserves softness without cleaning. The solvent may be wiped with newspaper and the brush will be ready for use again.

Science News Letter, October 31, 1959

GARDEN HOSE NOZZLE may be used for fire extinguishing or garden care. The single-orifice aluminum nozzle has no internal parts. Water striking a rigidly attached stainless steel pin makes a very fine fog-like spray.

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MULTIPLE PLANTER in tree form, shown in the photograph, is a three-tiered, 33-inch high brass stand with carrying handle and ten jardinières designed to hold



regular three-inch clay pots with plants. The planter may be used in homes, offices, and display rooms.

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BLACKBOARD TEACHING AID, shaped like a T-square, can be mounted on any board in seven minutes. Mounted in a track so that it is movable along the top

of the board, it is adjustable to any angle. With it, a teacher can rule parallel lines at any angle and produce visual-aid diagrams.

Science News Letter, October 31, 1959

DECORATIVE FLOODLIGHTS for outdoor use are weatherproof and vented for cooler, cleaner operation and longer lamp life. They are designed for exteriors requiring a high degree of architectural and color fidelity.

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SAWHORSE BRACKETS enable the homeowner to assemble in 30 seconds a horse that will support a half ton. With the brackets and some two-by-four-inch lumber, picnic tables, pingpong tables and workbenches can be set up quickly. No nails, screws, miter cuts or tools are required with the pincer-action brackets.

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CATTLE BACK-SCRATCHER automatically applies insecticide and oil on bodies of cattle as they scratch themselves. It consists of a flexible braided steel tube that revolves on a cable running diagonally from a post to the ground. Oil, which saturates a fibrous wick in the tube, keeps away lice, ticks, flies and grubs.

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Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

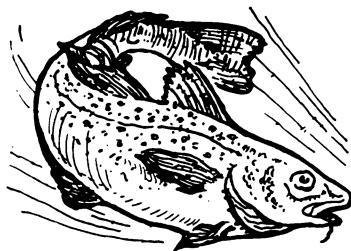
Floating Zoo

THE ANGLER who hooks and lands a big fish catches more than just that many pounds of piscatorial fin, flesh and bones. If he takes a closer look at his prize, he can see that he has taken a veritable zoological garden along with his fish.

First, if he examines the skin of his catch, he may find some leeches feeding thereon. This is just a preview of what can follow. A look into the mouth may reveal other types of leeches, and if the fish is from salt water there may be a monstrous-looking parasitic crustacean (a copepod) clinging to its tongue.

The gills are favorite spots for a whole new host of parasites. In fresh water, the young forms, or larvae, of clams and mussels clamp onto fish gills. Here they hitch a free ride until they are mature shellfish. In abnormal situations, such as is found in fish hatcheries, these larval shellfish may cause trouble; but in nature they are not much of a menace to the fish population.

Then there is a peculiar group of flat-



worms, small but with the big name of "monogenetic trematode," which also uses the gills of fishes for free room and board. These creatures are armed with awesome suckers that are generously supplied with numerous sharp hooks. They dig into the gills with these holdfasts and enjoy the fish's reluctant hospitality for life.

The story is much the same inside the fish as well as out. What food the fish manages to eat must be shared with a number of parasitic flukes and tapeworms that have taken up residence in his in-

testines. An examination of the fish's liver, kidney, lungs and other viscera usually turns up new and different kinds of parasites, mostly types of flatworms.

Many an angler has had the prospect of a good fish dinner dimmed when he discovers "white grubs" buried in little cysts throughout the flesh of his catch. These are juvenile stages of tapeworms, generally, which are patiently waiting for the fish to be eaten by a larger fish or carnivorous animal when they will come out of the cysts to mature in the intestine of the new host. (Chances of human infection in this way are practically nil, however, unless a person delights in eating raw fish. Cooking destroys these cysts. The vast majority of these worms fail to live in human intestines under any conditions.)

But this is not to berate the poor fish. Almost any animal has its normal complement of external and internal parasites. In fact, it is a major task to find an animal without parasites. As Robert Burns wrote, these "greater fleas have lesser fleas" and on ad infinitum.

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