

New Machines and Gadgets

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WATER-THINNED OUTDOOR PAINT is said to resist blistering and peeling because it has a porous film that permits air to "breathe through." Thus it may be applied in damp weather and will dry within two hours. It has an acrylic latex base and is available in 15 colors, each with a low sheen finish.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1960

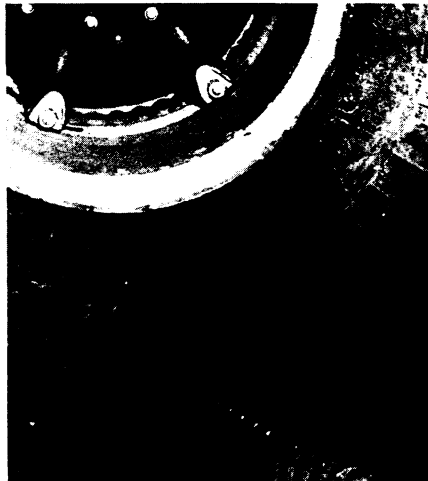
GARAGE DOOR ORNAMENTS of butyrate plastic can be screwed on to garage doors for a decorative accent. The ornamental moldings come in a variety of designs, including lattices, shutters, decorative scrolls. Supplied in white, they may be painted to match different color schemes.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1960

MICROFILM SPLICER permits businesses to revise, repair or consolidate their 16 mm microfilm records. Featuring clear tape, the unit does not require the operator to touch the face of the film.

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REINFORCED SUCTION HOSE for industrial use is strong and sturdy because the rubber core of the hose is surrounded by a coil of high density polyethylene. Both core and coil are wrapped with an outside layer of abrasion-resistant rubber. The hose,



seen in the photograph, is constructed to rebound to full diameter even after being run over by a heavy dump truck.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1960

MILITARY GAME for adults is a test of strategy played on a 1914 map of Europe. Three to seven may play. Each represents one of the great powers of Europe. There are no dice involved. Players plan moves, write them on a pad and all expose them

at same time, thereby realigning armies and fleets, represented by the playing pieces. A game of admitted skulduggery, players may gang up in shrewd alliances.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1960

FISH SPOTTER-DEPTH SOUNDER is a portable electronic device for use on row-boats and yachts. Housed in a plastic case, the compact unit takes power from lantern batteries or a 12-volt external D.C. source, and has a "triple bright" neon scope indicator. It will measure depths up to 160 feet.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1960

SOUND FILMSTRIP PROJECTOR for presentations before an individual or small group is a compact 10½-pound sales or training aid. The projector and two-speed phonograph are packed into a carrying case 14 x 14 x 7 inches. The lid forms a shadow box screen.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1960

ELECTRONIC ALARM SYSTEM rings out as soon as an intruder goes near protected equipment. The alarm may also be adjusted to ring only when the protected equipment is touched. The warning system may be connected through leased wire to a police station.

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Nature Ramblings



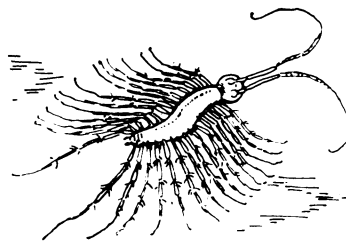
By HORACE LOFTIN

HAVE YOU EVER checked on the fellow who first said that a thousand-legs has a thousand legs? Or even the one who claimed that a hundred-legs has a hundred legs?

Neither have I. But the experts have bothered to check, at least on the centipede (hundred-legs). According to their tally, some have up to 173 pairs of legs while other limp around with only 15 pairs. On the average, though, 35 pairs—or 70 individual legs—seems to be the most usual number. So between the big ones and the little ones, it appears that the centipede is accurately named.

As for the millipedes (thousand-legs or pillbugs), absolute counts seem hard to come by. It does appear that 1,000 is a gross exaggeration for the number of appendages on this creature. On the other hand, the millipede does deserve recognition for the fact that it has two legs for every one the centipede can boast of.

Hundreds and Thousands of Legs



Whereas the centipede has a single pair of legs for each segment of his worm-like body, the millipede has two—and this is the best way to distinguish between them.

There is more than academic interest in knowing how to tell centipedes from millipedes. Centipedes possess poison glands which open through claws in the first pair of legs; millipedes are perfectly harmless.

Now, the common little house centipede of the United States is not to be "viewed with alarm" because of his bit of poison. It is such a little bit that this creature could hardly harm even a baby—if he could

be induced to bite.

On the other hand, he does us service as a militant enemy of cockroaches, silverfish and other household pests. Some of the centipedes of the tropics, however, can inflict a terrible bite. Among the tropical species, some attain a length of one foot and have a body as thick around as your thumb.

The millipedes are plant eaters, in contrast to the voracious centipedes which prey on worms, insects and the like. The smaller ones double up into a little ball to hide their vulnerable legs when they are molested, looking for all in the world like a pill. Hence their common name, pillbug. The larger millipedes coil up like the spring of a watch when you poke them. A good-sized millipede scurrying on his double set of legs is a rather awesome sight if you are not aware of his gentle nature.

And as you gaze at him, you cannot help wondering what would happen if he stopped to think what leg he should put down next!

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