

• 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 1047. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

LIGHTED SHAVER, a cordless electric shaver with rechargeable battery, features two lights near the shaving head. These lights help the user shave in dim light or darkness. The rotary action shaver may be recharged in both 110-volt and 220-volt wall outlets.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1960

"GRANDMA'S BRAG BOOK" is written in silver on the simulated leather cover of a photograph album especially designed for photos of grandchildren. Bound with a plastic spiral, the pages lie flat when the album is open. It is available in several colors.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1960

PANEL NIGHT LIGHT utilizes new electroluminescent techniques to provide a round panel of soft, green light. The light has no bulb; instead it has a ceramic plate with electroluminescent phosphors on one side, and a current-carrying coating on the other. The unit plugs directly into a wall socket and has a life expectancy of nearly five years of continuous burning.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1960

ALUMINIZED GLOVES, shown in the photograph, designed to reflect 90% of all radiant heat in work where high temperatures are required, have leather palms and



aluminized asbestos backs and thumbs. The gloves are long enough to protect wrists.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1960

CITIZENS BAND TRANSCEIVER KIT, when assembled, produces a receiving and sending unit for short-distance, two-way

communications use in the new 27-megacycle Citizens Radio Class D band. The finished unit may be used in a home or attached under the dashboard in an automobile. Units have an effective range of up to 20 miles, depending on antenna height and terrain.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1960

GOLF BALL HOLDER, a small plastic unit, clips to golfer's bag or belt to keep four tees and two balls handy. A dial on the clip permits the golfer to keep track of his score without getting out a pad and pencil at each hole.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1960

PLASTIC LINKS, for young engineers to build toys with, are tough but easy to bend. This feature permits the building of curved shapes such as ferris wheels, gondolas and windmills. Each rectangular link has peg-and-hole fastening devices at its four corners.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1960

CAMPING-BOAT TRAILER will carry a 14-foot boat in transit. But at camping site, the trailer unfolds into an 11-foot-wide unit with two double beds and a center aisle for a dining table. The trailer is of aluminum and steel with an army duck top.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1960



Nature Ramblings



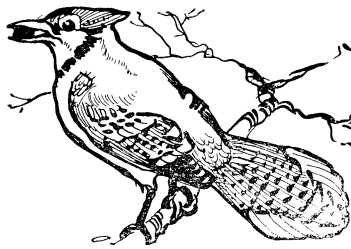
By HORACE LOFTIN

"DEAR SIR," the note read. "Here are two baby blue jays which we found abandoned on the ground. We cannot keep them in the dormitory. Please do not stuff them for the museum or make specimens of them. Just feed and take care of them. They eat chopped meat."

There was a cardboard box along with the note. Two diminutive jays, coming into their flight feathers, were huddled in a corner of the box. When the professor poked an inquisitive finger toward them, they were too weak to offer resistance or even to squawk as baby jays should.

According to instructions on bird care which the professor hastily consulted, baby jays should be fed every two hours—from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.! It would not be necessary to give them water as they would get enough in their food. Water might strangle them. But even if he were able to follow such a feeding schedule, it was obvious to the professor that his feathered foundlings could not long survive.

Foundling Birds



His attempts at feeding failed from the start. The birds were too weak even to respond to forced feeding. They lasted for half a day, then succumbed to dehydration and starvation.

Now, the note was signed "Two Biology students." The professor had his doubts as to how learned these students were in the field of biology. From the condition of the birds' feathers, it was obvious that they were not abandoned, but had left the nest in first attempts at flying. Without a doubt, the parents of the two jays were close when the "abandoned" birds were found.

Thus, misguided sentiment had accounted for the deaths of the two jays! If they had been left in the wilds—where they belonged!—their chances of survival would have been increased immeasurably.

This is not to say that one or both might not have fallen prey to a cat or other enemy. But, fed and protected by their parents, they would have had a fighting chance to survive. In nature, this is what every creature is given—a fighting chance, but no more. In well intended captivity, the young birds were denied this chance.

Of course, it is quite possible and even practicable to take a young bird from the nest and, with all the constant attention of an overworked mother bird, raise it successfully.

Some warm-hearted persons with much time on their hands do this regularly as a hobby. But unless you have the quality of patience and the gift of almost unlimited time, your sentiment will be better directed to leave nestling birds to nature and their natural parents.

Science News Letter, July 9, 1960