

• 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 1052. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **BOAT FOOT THROTTLE** enables boating enthusiasts to literally "step on the gas." The aluminum device lets the boat operator take advantage of automatic reflexes learned from driving a car. To accelerate, the operator presses down the toe; to decelerate, he presses the heel.

• Science News Letter, 78:112, August 13, 1960

⚙️ **TELESCOPE-KALEIDOSCOPE** shows an actual scene divided into eighths, rather than little beads or cutouts reflecting in patterns. When aimed at an automobile, a person or any object, this nine-inch-long tube shows many different views of the scene.

• Science News Letter, 78:112, August 13, 1960

⚙️ **LIGHTER AND WATCH** are combined in one unit, available in two sizes. Set in the case of the lighter is a shock-resistant, Swiss-made jeweled movement timepiece. The larger unit has a wind-proof outdoor lighter.

• Science News Letter, 78:112, August 13, 1960

⚙️ **ONE-PIECE RAINCAPE**, shown in the photograph, is a convenient garment for wet-weather wear. Easier to slip on than a raincoat, the polyethylene plastic raincape is full enough to be worn over suits or bulky outerwear as well as dresses, while the hood will protect a hat or hairdo.



The cape may be wiped clean or it can be dipped into a mild soap or detergent bath.

• Science News Letter, 78:112, August 13, 1960

⚙️ **FABRIC MENDER**, non-toxic and non-flammable, can be used for repairs on wool, cotton, leather and other fabrics. It will withstand washing and ironing. Among recommended uses are repairs on clothing,

canvas awnings, leather luggage, mattress covers and upholstery.

• Science News Letter, 78:112, August 13, 1960

⚙️ **WATER PURIFIER** is a portable filtering device that produces safe, clean water from any source. Harmful bacteria, *Bacillus coli*, dirt and odors are removed. The pocket-size, 15-ounce unit comes in a compact, watertight kit. The filter unit consists of a filter pad between two fiber screens.

• Science News Letter, 78:112, August 13, 1960

⚙️ **TELESCOPING RACK** opens to form a bar for drying clothes in tub or shower, and folds up when not in use. Telescoping from 16 to 34 inches, the aluminum rack holds up to 10 garments. No tools are needed to attach the rack to any shower head.

• Science News Letter, 78:112, August 13, 1960

⚙️ **VERTICAL SHISHKABOB GRILL** allows self-basting, and prevents grease flare-up while preparing barbecue. Equipped with eight skewers that rotate automatically, the center charcoal loading permits easy replenishing, while keeping the temperature evenly distributed. The grill stands 23 inches high and weighs eight pounds, is easily taken apart and cleaned.

• Science News Letter, 78:112, August 13, 1960



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

➤ AS THE SUMMER SUN beats down and you swelter in your coat and collar, do you envy the animals that are cold-blooded? You may change your mind when you consider the plight of cold-blooded creatures in hot weather.

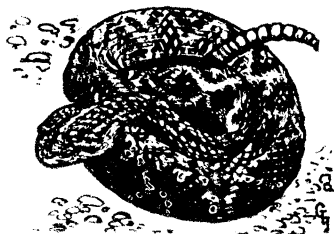
A cold-blooded animal is not one that can keep a low body temperature. Rather, it is an animal that takes on the temperature of its surroundings, hot or cold.

When the air temperature soars into the hundreds, the poor animal's temperature mounts about as high. When the air becomes frigid, so does its body.

Its only defense against death by heat in summer is to seek the shade. In winter, it must find some warmth.

On the other hand, warm-blooded animals are those that have the ability to regulate their body temperature, summer or winter. You shiver when you are cold, and the heat generated in this muscular movement warms the body. You perspire when you

Cold-Blooded Summer



are warm, and the evaporation of the sweat carries heat from your body. By an intricate balance of your body mechanism, your temperature stays fairly constant.

Only the birds and mammals have this kind of control over their body temperature. All other creatures are cold-blooded and are at the mercy of the environment.

Where summer heat is not too great and where shade can be found, summer works little hardship on the cold-blooded animals. But where heat is intense and shade at a premium, they cannot safely

move in the open when the sun is high.

For example, snakes inhabiting desert areas must remain buried under the sand or hidden deep among rock crevices during the day. They emerge only in the cool of the evening.

Cold-blooded animals of the desert may be put at another disadvantage in summer: They may get too cold! It is common for temperatures to range from unbearably hot at noon to almost freezing at night in desert conditions. Thus, the snake that cannot move during the day because of the heat may also have to hole up late at night as the temperature drops.

Many cold-blooded creatures go into "hibernation" during the height of summer, sleeping till cooler weather comes.

Because they can defy the heat of summer and the cold of winter, the warm-blooded creatures—birds and mammals—have gained an important edge over their cold-blooded relatives. But wouldn't it be great to sleep away the summer heat!

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