

• 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 1053. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

• **SWIMITTS** of bright orange rubber make swimming easier. The webbing between the fingers provides a broader hand surface to the water. Maximum pulling power can be obtained by keeping fingers spread and swimming with normal gliding strokes. Skin divers can wear them as protection from sharp foreign objects encountered under water.

• Science News Letter, 78:128 August 20, 1960

• **TV COLOR WHEEL** finds a new use for the family television set. The toy is activated by holding the kaleidoscope wheel in front of a television screen. The colorful patterns are created by the 30-cycle scanning lines that appear on all TV screens. The "TV Magic Kaleidoscope Wheel" comes with four disc changes for various designs.

• Science News Letter, 78:128 August 20, 1960

• **ORNAMENTAL SUNDIAL** is an authentic reproduction of an ancient Roman timepiece in a rich bronze finish. This solar clock is ideal for a garden, pool, sundeck or patio. Man's first and only trouble-free clock, the sundial never runs down or needs rewinding.

• Science News Letter, 78:128 August 20, 1960

• **TOY CLOCK** of high-impact plastic, shown in the photograph, combines the features of a useful household appliance and a take-apart, put-together toy. For



young boys and girls, everything but the spring can be completely taken apart and reassembled. There are 25 parts and corresponding gear-axle colors to help a child put the clock together.

• Science News Letter, 78:128 August 20, 1960

• **PLASTIC BAG FASTENER** provides a quick, easy way to close plastic, fabric or paper bags. The clip is molded in two

parts, an oval loop-shaped ring about two inches long, and a flat squarish cap. To close a bag, the tip is pulled through and folded down over the loop, the cap is then placed over the loop and pushed down until it locks.

• Science News Letter, 78:128 August 20, 1960

• **ADJUSTABLE BOOK ENDS**, made of slender anodized aluminum, are spring loaded for tension, with non-marking white rubber tips. The book ends, "shelves," hold books, records, folders, directories and magazines upright. They will fit any shelf height from 9½ to 14 inches.

• Science News Letter, 78:128 August 20, 1960

• **BELT PILL BOX** is built into a belt buckle to hold nitroglycerin tablets. Designed for men with heart ailments that require these tablets, the cartridge in the buckle makes them easily available in an emergency.

• Science News Letter, 78:128 August 20, 1960

• **PLASTIC GREENHOUSES** may soon use a new type of polyethylene film now being tested. The new film uses a non-pigment type of ultraviolet inhibitor. The transparent inhibitor permits the light and the warmth of the sun to penetrate the greenhouse and at the same time prolongs the life of the film.

• Science News Letter, 78:128 August 20, 1960



Nature Ramblings



By HORACE LOFTIN

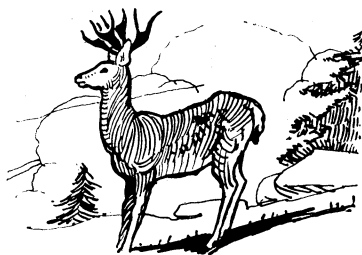
► A CARTOON appearing recently in a sportsman's magazine showed three sketches of deer: one for "how most people see them," one for "how the hunter sees them," one for "how the biologists see them." Those simple sketches tell much about animals, conservation—and people.

"Most people" see a deer, according to the sketch, as a gentle-eyed doe, accompanied by her sweet, spotted fawn, and together they form a picture of idyllic contentment. Who would dream of entering their woods to kill such happy creatures!

"The hunter" sees a deer as the head of an enormous buck, with wide and many-pronged antlers. This head is mounted on one of those shield-shaped plaques, and the whole is perched on a rather uninteresting and abstract body. This is the trophy deer, the animal worthy of the hunter's best efforts to stalk and outwit.

"The biologists" see their deer, the sketch shows, as a lean, hungry animal with wor-

Pictures of a Deer



ried eyes, holding a knife and fork in one hoof and an empty plate in the other. This is a creature wholly dependent on the resources of its environment for its livelihood.

Which of these is the "truest" picture of deer? Of course, none of them, for they are all true to a degree.

To start with the hungry deer:

Before arguments pro or con are heard concerning hunting versus protection, the capabilities of the deer herd's grazing range must be known. Will the acreage

support more deer and maintain them in best health and balanced reproduction? Or is the woodland utilized to the hilt now, resulting in poor animals and unbalanced reproductive rates?

Obviously, the picture of contentment held by "most people" cannot be realized so long as an overabundance of deer reduces or destroys the food supply and cover. Obviously, "the hunter's" picture of a great trophy deer will not hold so long as either poor range or overhunting cuts into the deer population.

Before Europeans came to America with guns, axes and fire to change the face of the New World, deer herds and other wildlife were maintained in a general balance with food supply by the activities of predators—wolves, mountain lions and other predaceous beasts.

We have removed the predators. It is up to us now to balance our wildlife by utilizing a wise combination of hunting, protection and habitat management.

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