

• 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 1069. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **MOBILE CHARCOAL GRILL** can be rolled out of niche in countertop or any corner area of the kitchen and moved to patio for outside cooking. A built-in rack holds a variety of seasonings and there is storage space for charcoal lighter and other items in a compartment above the wheels.

• Science News Letter, 78:400 December 10, 1960

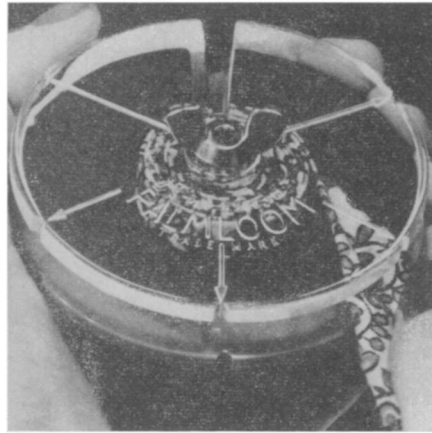
☛ **FISH BAIT AERATOR** keeps minnows, crayfish, shrimp alive until ready for use. Complete plastic encased 6-volt, DC electric pump, operating on flashlight batteries, continuously forces millions of fresh air bubbles into a minnow bucket for at least 24 hours. It will run indefinitely when plugged into cigarette lighter socket of car.

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☛ **KITCHEN STORAGE CABINET** has a door that slides up out of the way. The shelves can be raised and lowered like the old-time dumb-waiter, but automatically at the touch of a button.

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☛ **ROUND LOOM** that can be held in the hand helps create scatter rugs, coaster sets, chair seats and clothing decorations. Strips



of remnant materials are wound up and then put through slots in the loom, shown in the picture. The circular pieces produced may be sewn together into larger items.

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☛ **AUTOMATIC TWEEZER** eliminates both pain and pull from eyebrow plucking. It works on the principle that a hair can be removed painlessly if done very quickly.

The stainless steel instrument uses a high-speed piston-in-cylinder principle, making action so rapid that pain is virtually eliminated.

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☛ **CHEESE OR BUTTER SLICER** makes perfect pats in a jiffy. Insert bar of cheese, butter or margarine in cutter and slice only what is needed. The device is of break-resistant, easy-to-wash plastic.

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☛ **GOLDEN LUSTER INITIALS** stick permanently to all materials, do not fade or tarnish, and can be washed, waxed or cleaned. Easy to use for personalizing gifts or making your own monograms. The kit has 200 assorted A to Z initials.

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☛ **RUBBERIZED EXTERIOR HOUSE PAINT** for all surfaces may be applied over surface dampened by rain or dew. It dries bug-free and dust-free in 30 minutes. A second coat may be applied the same day. The paint is said to resist the formation of blisters and is available in 12 ready-mixed colors.

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Nature Ramblings



➤ **HUNTERS** must develop either stealth or speed in order to capture their prey. The leopard waits in ambush, while the cheetah outruns even the fleetest antelope to make its kill.

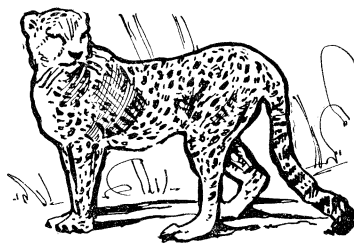
These two great cats, so much alike in many respects, differ in ways that adapt them to their separate ways of life. The leopard is supremely camouflaged. His body is heavy and strongly muscled for a quick leap and a sudden kill.

The cheetah is more lightly built, with very long legs and a degree of "streamlining" not seen in the leopard: adaptations for great speed.

Throughout the animal kingdom, shape and structure of living things are seen to be related to different ways of life. Hunter sharks are lithe and streamlined to a fine degree; their cousins, the sawfishes, are flattened from top to bottom, an adaptation to life on the bottom in wait of prey.

The hunted as well as the hunters show particular relationships between body form and function. Members of the deer family are frequently called "spring-footed" animals, because their bodies are so constructed

Built to Order



that they can make great bounding leaps at escape pace.

Pocket gophers live all their days beneath the soil; their eyes are dim and their forefeet modified into great, sharp shovels. Their relatives who are not so permanently bound to their burrows, for example the ground squirrels, have keen sight and their limbs are unmodified so that they may scamper quickly into their dens at the approach of danger.

Adaptations of related animals to terrestrial or aquatic conditions are often seen.

For example, the strictly aquatic turtles

of the oceans have their legs modified into swimming flippers and have no obvious trace of toes.

Strictly land turtles, such as the gopher turtle of the American south and west and the giant Galapagos turtle, have well-developed toes with little or no webbing and very heavy, "elephant-like" limbs to support their weight on land.

Man, an upright-walking animal, has strong legs but relatively weak arms.

Tree-dwelling monkeys have long, strong arms, and some use their prehensile tails to make sure there are no slip ups.

Birds, on the other hand, are particularly equipped for flight, not only because their "arms" are wings, but also because their weight is highly centralized in the middle of the body.

In addition, a bird gets double use of its air by an arrangement of supplementary air sacs connected to the lungs.

Whether an animal lives in water, on land or takes to the air, and whether it eats meat, plants, or both, it does so because of its construction.

—HORACE LOFTIN

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