

• New Ideas 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 1072. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **BOBBY PIN DISPENSER** of plastic is handpainted and elaborately jeweled. Press down the top and a bobby pin automatically rises to your finger tips. The dispenser is available in pink, aqua or lavender.

• Science News Letter, 78:444 December 31, 1960

⚙️ **GAME TABLE** of aluminum has three different game boards nested in the top and a storage compartment beneath for game pieces. Offset spaces handle glasses and ash trays without getting in way of those playing chess, checkers or other board games. The table and equipment are aluminum throughout.

• Science News Letter, 78:444 December 31, 1960

⚙️ **TOWEL AND CLOTHES POLE** may be adjusted to fit from floor, bathtub, sink or counter to the ceiling. The three towel arms and two hanger hooks may be set at various heights to suit the needs of members of the family. Available in chrome or brass finish, the pole provides seven feet of usable space for hanger and hooks.

• Science News Letter, 78:444 December 31, 1960

⚙️ **ELECTRIC WRIST WATCH**, shown in the photograph, is powered by a battery smaller than a dime. Battery is said to give 13 months service and is easily replaced by unscrewing plate at rear of watch. It takes the place of mainspring as the watch's source



of power, thus requiring fewer working parts in the watch.

• Science News Letter, 78:444 December 31, 1960

⚙️ **GOLF CART ACCESSORY** is a board or rack that holds score card, two golf balls, tees, pencil and cigarette. It fits on the cart

handle. One model also has an attached pencil sharpener, a hanger for a towel, and space for a pack of cigarettes.

• Science News Letter, 78:444 December 31, 1960

⚙️ **WEATHER STRIPPING** of vinyl plastic can be installed with just a pair of garden shears and a tack hammer to provide permanent weather sealing for doors and windows. The vinyl material will not bend, tear or decompose with age or wear; it adjusts automatically to compensate for door warpage and can be painted. The weather stripping comes in standard doorsize sets.

• Science News Letter, 78:444 December 31, 1960

⚙️ **WATER PURIFIER UNIT** consists of a fully automatic chlorinator and a filter unit for use where iron water is a problem. The chlorinator kills disease bacteria and puts the iron into an insoluble state. The filter removes the precipitated iron and chlorine, as well as other impurities.

• Science News Letter, 78:444 December 31, 1960

⚙️ **POCKET-SIZE STOVE** fits in the palm of the hand but could be used to cook a meal. The collapsible stove uses dry fuel tablets that light instantly to boil a pint of water, grill hot dogs, heat soup or warm hands on chilly days. Stove and fuel weigh only six ounces.

• Science News Letter, 78:444 December 31, 1960



Nature Ramblings



➤ **AT THIS TIME** of year in Russia, the evergreens are coming into their own. In that snowy country, the gift-giving season is New Year's Day and the Christmas tree is a New Year tree. Traditionally, fir trees are illuminated with twinkling lights, and the parks, streets and squares are decorated with colored lanterns.

The Russians have an approximate equivalent of the American tree that stands on the White House lawn and is lighted by the President on the day before Christmas.

This is the big decorated fir tree displayed in the white-marbled Hall of the Columns in the Moscow House of the Trade Union. The Hall is transformed into a fairyland, where thousands of children receive presents and watch genial Jack Frost lead the Snow Maiden into the midst of birds and beasts dancing in the snowflakes.

Toward evening, when the younger children's parties are over, the New Year tree, topped by a red star, is again the center of merrymaking as students from

Trees After Christmas



the higher classes gather for balls, masquerades and concerts featuring music by Russian composers.

More recently, a second tree, placed in the Kremlin Building and surrounded by similar pageantry and presents, has come to be regarded as an equal holiday center, and New Year festivals are arranged in nearly every large town in Russia.

After the holiday, however, the Russians have the same problem already facing 40,000,000 Americans. This is: what to do with

the tree.

Stripped of tinsel and baubles, the dried and needleless trees all present a bedraggled appearance, be they fir, pine, spruce, red cedar or juniper. But their usefulness need not be over.

Branches cut from the tree can be used as protective cover for perennials, or, in some cases, a thick layer of needles will serve as a mulch that adds needed acid to the soil.

Where conditions and well laid plans call for it, Christmas trees can be dumped into stocked lakes as hiding places for fish. Fishermen who know the trees' location can use it as a convenient guide to where the fish are.

In areas where vegetation is scarce in winter, sportsmen's organizations gather used Christmas trees and make protective brush piles where next season's quarry, rabbits and quail, can hide during the colder months.

—GLORIA BALL

• Science News Letter, 78:444 December 31, 1960