

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ANTISEPTIC SPRAY** coats affected areas to hold germ killers in sustained contact with skin. The pressurized spray is recommended for minor cuts, scrapes, burns, abrasions, blisters, scratches, insect bites, rashes, poison ivy and sunburn.

• Science News Letter, 79:176 March 18, 1961

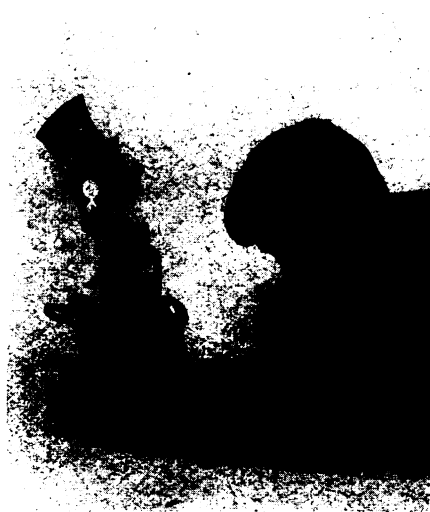
⚙️ **GOLF CLUB GRIP**, scientifically designed, overcomes club twisting in hands and will fit all sizes and shapes of hands. Replacement instructions for application on present clubs provide easy and permanent switch. Grips available in set of four.

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⚙️ **FISHERMAN'S LEADER PACK** operates with simplicity of dental floss dispenser and comes in hand pack of four assortments of leader material of different test weight. Each spool contains up to 25 yards, and assortments include 1- to 4-pound test line, 2- to 6-pound test, 6- to 12-pound test, and 10- to 25-pound test. Extra single spools available.

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⚙️ **TOY ROBOT**, shown in the photograph, comes completely assembled but young engineers and tinkerers can take it apart and put it together again from accompanying instructions. The robot can be wound up to walk, squawk, swing its



arms, ring a bell and move its jaws. Transparent wheels and plastic body reveal colored gears in action.

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⚙️ **SOLDER PEN** has handle that can be removed and screwed on to cover tip and barrel, permitting soldering iron to be carried around safely in shirt pocket even when hot. The handle of the 30-watt

pencil type iron also adds extra shock protection. Pen comes with carrying case.

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⚙️ **ALUMINUM FOIL PANS** now come in new shapes, colors and with special functional coatings. These include a rigid foil jacket for gourmet preparation of mashed potatoes, individual casseroles or desserts, red sweetheart cake pans, a 12-inch black bottomed pizza pan, and copper colored party cups and cake pans, suitable for baking and serving.

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⚙️ **SWIVEL-HEAD DRY MOP** attracts and pulls dust out of corners because its wool fiber head builds up harmless electrostatic charge that helps to attract dust to it. The 54-inch maple handle has swivel feature that eliminates stooping to reach dust under beds and furniture.

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⚙️ **BUILT-IN ELECTRIC CLOCK** is said to be installed easily on wall of any room, regardless of surface, using standard four-inch octagonal electric junction box. The clock is available in polished brass, antique black or spray gold finish, and circular, square or rectangular designs can be constructed using a template.

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## Nature Ramblings



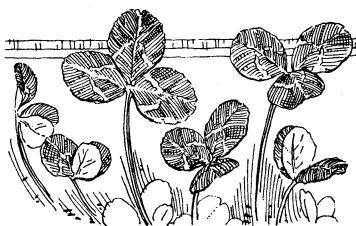
► WHEN ST. PATRICK landed in Ireland in the year 432 and began to preach, the High-king Loigaire asked, so the story goes, to be told what is the Holy Trinity?

Patrick picked a shamrock from the ground and explained that, like the leaves of this little plant, the Holy Trinity was three in one, yet one in three. Thus the shamrock saved the day, and the king allowed Patrick to continue with his work. Today statues of Patrick show him holding the shamrock in his right hand, and millions of people display and wear the shamrock on St. Patrick's Day.

Just what plant Patrick stooped down to pluck cannot be stated with certainty. One of the hop clovers, *Trifolium dubium*, is now regarded by many as the true shamrock, but the common white clover long has been a favorite and is still a leading contender.

If the white clover is the true shamrock, it is not found uniquely in Ireland, as some

### Shamrock



Irishmen would have us believe. It grows wherever a chalk or limestone soil gives it favorable rootage. Its special luxuriance in Ireland is due simply to the combination there of ideal soil conditions and the peculiar Irish climate, with its mild winters and long, cool, moist summers.

One other plant contests with the clovers for the honor of being the original sham-

rock. This is one of the species of the oxalis, variously known as sheep sorrel or wood sorrel, well known in this country, especially to children who like to nibble its sour leaves. Old Irish herbals give this plant the name of "seamrog," and ascribe to it medicinal virtues almost miraculous.

The oxalis may have come into the shamrock competition because the Irish have sent this plant to England for festive occasions, while the white clover stayed at home for Irish celebrations.

It will never be possible to determine the matter accurately; and indeed to the botanists of that early date there was little difference.

Before the seventeenth century or thereabouts, plants were classified by their leaves rather than by their flowers.

The three-leaved clover and the three-leaved oxalis were both "shamrocks" to the early Irish.

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