

garding decisions about saving, spending and selecting.

HOW TO CLEAN EVERYTHING: An Encyclopedia of What to Use and How to Use It—Alma Chestnut Moore—*Simon & Schuster*, rev. ed., 203 p., illus., \$3.75. Has alphabetized section on how to remove stains from fabrics.

HOW TO KNOW THE FERNS: A Guide to the Names, Haunts and Habits of Our Common Ferns—Frances Theodora Parsons—*Dover*, 2nd ed., 215 p., illus. by Marion Satterlee and Alice Josephine Smith, paper, \$1.25. Unabridged reprint of 1899 edition.

HOW TO MASTER YOUR ALLERGY: Harry Swartz, M.D.—*Nelson*, 288 p., \$5. Book concentrates on minimizing or avoiding allergic difficulty through preventive program.

HUMAN ANATOMY ATLAS: Ronald Keller in consultation with Christian A. Hovde—*Hammond*, 36 p., color illus., \$1. Depicts component parts of both the female and male anatomy.

THE THEORY AND OPERATION OF THE SLIDE RULE: John P. Ellis—*Dover*, 289 p., paper, \$1.50. Presentation emphasizes the fundamental

theory upon which slide rule operation is based.

VACATIONS ABROAD: Courses, Study Tours, Work Camps, 1961—UNESCO—*Unesco Publications Center (N.Y.)*, 13th ed., paper, \$1.25. Reports on wide variety of educational and cultural vacation activities in more than 75 countries, including information on financial assistance available.

WEED IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL: In the North Central States—Duane Isely—*Iowa State Univ. Press*, 2nd ed., 400 p., illus. by Frances Fenske, \$4.95. Methods for determining unknown weeds, basic principles of weed control and recent advances in herbicidal weed control.

WHAT TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN ABOUT SEX: Child Study Association of America, Adie Suehsdorf, Ed.—*Arco*, 96 p., illus. by Harry Rosenbaum, \$1.50. Tells parents simply and plainly, in question-and-answer form, how to impart sex information at the various stages of child development, from infancy to adolescence.

THE WORLD OF DINOSAURS: Edwin H. Colbert—*Home Lib. Press*, 34 p., illus. by George Geygan, 69¢. An introduction to prehistoric animals.

• Science News Letter, 79:300 May 13, 1961

INVENTION

Patents of the Week

A device to cut down air pollution has been patented. A solar cell for converting the sun's energy into electricity and a television antenna system were other inventions.

► **AN ANTISMOG DEVICE** to cut down air pollution has been patented.

A Los Angeles citizen became fed up with the auto exhaust gases that cause smog in his city 200 days a year and decided to take matters into his own hands. John Allen Buttler invented a combination muffler and afterburner (patent No. 2,981,057) that burns the harmful hydrocarbons before they are emitted into the atmosphere.

The muffler has a cage-like structure of heating rods and baffle screens. The rods are heated by a power line connected to the car's electrical system and the screens dampen the noise.

In order to ignite the hydrocarbons, a valve is shut when the automobile is started, trapping hydrocarbons in the muffler. A current is sent through the rods which generate enough heat to burn the hydrocarbons.

After a while, the baffle screen and a ceramic liner inside the muffler begin to glow and the current is then shut off and the valve opened. The glowing elements are sufficient to burn all hydrocarbons generated while the vehicle is moving.

A solar cell that converts the sun's energy into electricity won patent No. 2,981,777 for Donald C. Reynolds of Springfield, Ohio, who assigned patent rights to the U. S. Air Force. The surface receiving the sun's rays is polished and coated with a cadmium sulfide layer.

A TV antenna system that blocks out signals causing interference on the television set received patent No. 2,981,834. The system has an antenna that seeks out the unwanted signals and cancels them out, while another antenna receives the normal signals, inventors Rollind O. Holloway and John R. Holloway of Hollywood, Fla., stated. A similar system for radios is also covered by

the patent. A sharp stiletto to be used by skin divers swimming through dangerous murky ocean depths was invented by Californian Edwin J. Wedrall of La Habra. The weapon, which received patent No. 2,981,026, can be used for protection against underwater creatures, or for spearing fish. A pressurized can of carbon dioxide housed in the handles releases the gas upon spearing a fish, making the animal lighter so it floats to the surface.

A lightweight portable prompting system helps actors and speakers deliver their speeches or dialogue before television cameras or live audiences. Invented by Joseph Florian De Frenes of Springfield, Pa., and Horace Ludington Roberts of Port Chester, N. Y. (Contoocook, N. H.), the prompter received patent No. 2,981,144. The text, which is written on a strip of material, is presented to the speaker at a rate controlled by a tiny motor. The strip is threaded through a magnifying unit, providing easy visibility for the speaker.

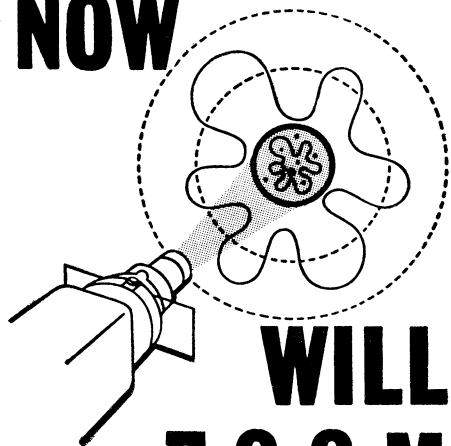
The device can also be used in foreign language classes, the two inventors stated.

A method for eliminating termites from homes supposedly can get into every crevice where the insects are hiding. Inventor Billy J. Woodson of Colton, Calif., was awarded patent No. 2,981,025 for the invention. A pipe peppered with tiny openings for spraying the anti-termite poison is designed for easy handling.

A scissor-like device, patent No. 2,980,995, for pruning or cutting shrubs and tree limbs was patented by Lendon W. Booth of Memphis, Tenn. No motion is wasted, the inventor stated, for the pruner cuts both on the forward and the backward stroke. Two circular plates with sharp teeth provide the cutting edge.

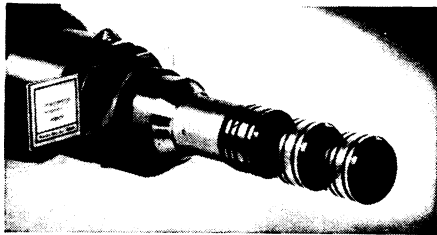
• Science News Letter, 79:301 May 13, 1961

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