

• 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 1095. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **TRAVEL-CLOCK RADIO** automatically wakes you up on your travels. The compact, six-transistor clock radio has an alarm, light and the radio to make sure you get up. It closes into a compact unit for easy storage or carrying.

• Science News Letter, 79:368 June 10, 1961

⚙️ **SAFETY SHIELD** of plastic and lead protects laboratory worker from injury as well as guarding apparatus from accidental breakage. The portable, curved plastic shield, with weighted lead base for stability, wraps around the laboratory equipment, permits full visibility and is easy to reach around.

• Science News Letter, 79:368 June 10, 1961

⚙️ **POCKET-SIZE STOVE** of steel can be used to prepare outdoor meals, warm baby bottles, or act as a torch. The self-regulating unit burns gasoline, lighter fluid and even kerosene; one filling of five-ounce container lasts one and a half hours. The stove is only 5 by 4½ by 1⅞ inches and weighs one and a half pounds.

• Science News Letter, 79:368 June 10, 1961

⚙️ **LINT REMOVERS**, shown in the photograph, are convenient pads which slip over the hand for easy use. Each pad is coated with high tack adhesive, covered with a protective liner. To use, slip pad on



hand, remove liner and pat article gently to lift off lint, dust, threads or hair. The pads come six to a pack and can be carried conveniently in purse, pocket or auto.

• Science News Letter, 79:368 June 10, 1961

⚙️ **OXYGEN SUPPLY UNIT** for private aircraft provides quick assistance in case of a heart attack or other emergency. Unit

supplies 51 minutes of oxygen and comes complete with the oxygen cylinder, regulator, plastic mask and carrying case. The unit could be used also for oxygen supply at high altitudes.

• Science News Letter, 79:368 June 10, 1961

⚙️ **SAFETY LOCK** prevents burglars from breaking in by picking lock or smashing a glass panel and releasing the lock. It cannot be opened from outside by turning or moving the knob. Easily mounted with tamper-proof screws, the lock can also be used on cabinets, windows or closet doors.

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⚙️ **FAST WRITING METHOD** for busy students and businessmen can be learned in just two hours. The do-it-yourself method is based on the alphabet and features a short form for the 50 most used words in the English language, accounting for nearly half of everything written.

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⚙️ **OPTICAL ILLUSION KIT** of rotating disks produces colors from black and white disks, changing shapes and even objects that are not there. Kit also demonstrates hypnotism and how old-time movies worked. Unit includes 13 five-inch disks, battery holder and rheostat, tiny motor and instruction booklet.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

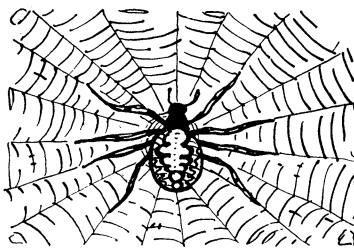
► IN THE RELATIONSHIP between the spider and the fly, the spider typically is cast as the villain. But in the presence of the hunting wasp, the spider assumes the victim's role and frequently uses ingenious devices to conceal its own identity.

In some cases it does so by mimicking the ant, a creature which is not only unattractive to but avoided by the hunting wasp. The spider, with eight legs, may place its front pair of legs over its forehead and wiggle them to and fro. In this posture, it has the appearance of the six-legged ant with antennae in front. To further the disguise, the spider moves with the hurried and jerky gait of the ant. When the two species are moving, it is difficult to tell them apart.

On two occasions, reliable naturalists have found a spider wearing the hollow shell of an ant over its head and shoulders. Thus, these arachnid actors not only imitate the ant, but may also dress up for the role.

Several kinds of spiders live with ants,

Incognito Spider



and natural selection over the ages has singled out those that look and act most like their smaller roommates.

Still others have come to resemble the wasps themselves. They cannot grow wings, but there are such things as wingless wasps. One such wasp, found in Uganda, has four large white spots on its upper abdomen. Two spiders with similar spots were found running about among the wasps, happily enjoying immunity from the deadly sting.

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Polluted air poisons many plants in the United States, destroying the older leaves first and gradually killing the entire plant.

A completely automatic parking system that transports each individual automobile from street level to its parking place and returns it to street level with neither the driver nor an attendant going up with it is being constructed in England.

Polio was first accurately described in 1789 by a British physician.

Americans are the world's greatest coffee drinkers, consuming about 400,000,000 cups daily at a per capita rate of nearly 16 pounds annually.

In 1960 corn borers destroyed more than 3,000,000 tons of corn, worth \$96,085,000, in the United States.

Atomic radiation might soon be used for curing leather commercially.

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