

• 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 1098. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **PICNIC CARRY-ALL** not only holds food for four persons but converts to a four-place dining table 14" high by 32" across, supported by four tubular steel fold-away legs. Its wood core is covered with washable plastic on both exterior and interior.

• Science News Letter, 80:16 July 1, 1961

☛ **COLOR-CODED PIPETS** for easy identification in laboratories are marked by color bands according to their capacity and graduated interval. The capacity is also shown by a number in matching color above the band to assure quicker identification.

• Science News Letter, 80:16 July 1, 1961

☛ **SHAVING GEAR STAND** neatly stores men's shaving equipment, whether they use electric shavers or safety razors. Available in rustproof aluminum, or aluminum with a transparent or colored plastic base, the stand easily fits into all modern medicine cabinets.

• Science News Letter, 80:16 July 1, 1961

☛ **ALL-PURPOSE APPLICATOR**, shown in the photograph, is designed for use with various all-purpose liquid cleaners and can help clean woodwork, tile, windows and even white wall tires. The yellow plastic,



1½-inch handle holds a half pint of cleaner. A circular head combines a brush with polystyrene sponge into which the fluid is pumped by squeezing the handle.

• Science News Letter, 80:16 July 1, 1961

☛ **CORK PEGGED PLANKS**, reflecting early American decor, are made in random widths and tones to achieve interesting decorative flooring effects. The 36-

inch-long planks are available in light, medium and dark tones, with widths of four, six and eight inches.

• Science News Letter, 80:16 July 1, 1961

☛ **IDENTIFICATION LOCKETS** give medical information about any special illness of the wearer and what to do in an emergency. Personal or medical history is contained on a slip inside the locket. Stainless steel or plastic lockets are available for use with a neck chain, pin or bracelet.

• Science News Letter, 80:16 July 1, 1961

☛ **ADJUSTABLE HEAD BAND** gives cool relief during hot weather for up to five hours. Water is poured on an outside sponge-lined aluminum band and the evaporating water cools the band. Attractively designed, women can even wear it at the office or on the street.

• Science News Letter, 80:16 July 1, 1961

☛ **FLAMEPROOF WOOL BLANKET** that snuffs out flames when clothing is afire is especially useful in chemical plants and laboratories, and other industries where fire is a hazard. The 62- by 82-inch blanket is packaged in a red metal case. A victim pulls a rope loop extending outside the case and as he revolves the blanket wraps tightly around him.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

➤ **THE BADGER** has been given the nickname "doormat" because of his broad, squat form and his hairy back. But the badger is a courageous fighter, and in pioneer days it was considered great sport to turn a dog pack loose on this furry foe.

Although the contests were heavily weighted in favor of the dogs, few were willing to enter such a fight a second time.

If possible the badger hurriedly digs a protective hole, and if cornered will release a strong odor from glands near the tail. He is set low upon the ground, only about nine inches high at the shoulder; his throat is well below the line of attack of most dogs, and the back of his neck is too well armored in coarse hair to permit effective bites from above. His front claws are formidable weapons and he can leave a dog limping for life after one bite with his sharp teeth.

One dog, the dachshund (which translates literally as "badger-dog"), is almost as low slung as the badger itself, and can more easily get a deadly throat hold.

Badger



The popularity of badgering has decreased considerably, and the badger needs the respite. Throughout its normal range, the dry open country from central Saskatchewan southward to Mexico, the badger is not nearly so numerous as previously.

The badger lives alone, except during autumn mating and spring rearing periods. Usually it hunts for mice, gophers, ground squirrels, insects and snails at night, but occasionally it may be seen at the entrance of its den in the daytime.

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Potassium deficiency may seriously alter the structure and function of the *heart*.

One of the first military applications of turbine-powered earth-moving and construction equipment is a gas turbine-powered tractor now being tested by Army engineers.

Nations in the Middle East are today cooperating to control the *locust*, the insect most often mentioned in the Bible.

In 1959, 26 states reported average production above 200 *eggs* per hen per year.

Alaska is now the only state in the U. S. immune to the attack of *termites*.

Asphalt shingle constitutes more than 80% of the roofing used on sloping *roofs* in the U. S.

Acids from mines kill *fish* by stopping blood circulating through the *gills*.

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