

• 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 1110. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **RADIATOR-CAP COVER** with a diameter about one and a half times that of a metal radiator cap protects hands from being burned when removing the cap from a steaming radiator. The cap cover of polyethylene resin, usable on most American cars, withstands heat and rough handling. It is available in five colors and can be personalized.

• Science News Letter, 80:214 September 23, 1961

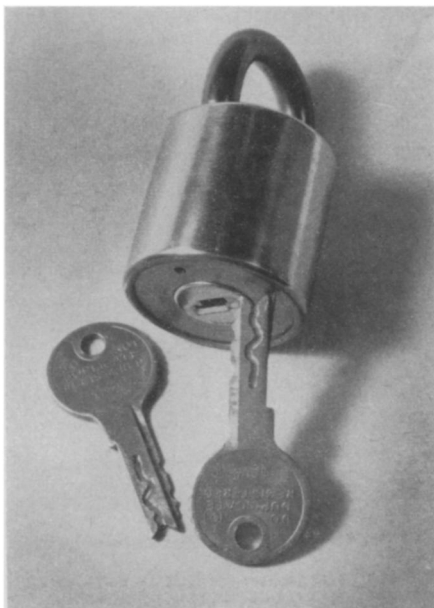
⊗ **PLANT WRAPPING** for nurserymen effectively protects delicate roots and plants during shipment or transfer, eliminating the need for wet moss or wood shavings. The new wrap consisting of creped paper coated with tough plastic permits the plants to "breathe," retains moisture, and prevents light penetration and mold growth.

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⊗ **AUTO BUTLER**, a handy litter container of heavy duty washable plastic, swivels under the dashboard when not in use. Simple to remove for disposal of contents, the plaid container fastens to the underside of the dashboard with a metal clasp. Useful also in boats and the home.

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⊗ **PICK-PROOF LOCK**, shown in the photograph, features a new design for the key, keyway and internal locking mechanism, in which conventional keys cannot fit.



The padlock has a case-hardened steel shackle double-locked at both heel and toe by a heavy solid brass double-rotating bolt. All locks are registered in the purchaser's name and guaranteed.

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⊗ **SMALL SOLDERING IRON** with convenient 120-volt operation is suitable for the

"do-it-yourself" fan as well as industry. Designed for maximum heat at the tip and fast temperature recovery, the iron has a comfortable, cool, plastic handle. The set includes handle, cord and tip assembly.

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⊗ **SAFETY CANDLE** is battery operated on the principle of the flashlight and is safe for use in church, schools, music groups or other performances, indoors or outdoors. The 8- or 12-inch tall candles light up realistically by merely screwing on the prism-cut translucent plastic flame. Bases are available separately.

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⊗ **AUTOMATIC BUTTON STITCHER** for clothing manufacturers automatically stitches buttons on men's coats and vests at the rate of 1,000 buttons per eight-hour day. Duplicating hand-stitching, it eliminates one of the most tedious operations in the clothing industry.

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⊗ **FREE-WHEELING TRICYCLE** with a handlebar control lever enables the child to shift into free wheeling or lock the rear wheels into straight line riding. The rear wheels which can turn in a complete 360-degree circle allow the sharp turns impossible with the conventional tricycle.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

► ON WARM autumn days, thousands of butterflies may be seen flying southward, usually several hundred feet above the ground.

In the spring, ships in the English Channel may see great clouds of the small white butterfly, the large white butterfly, the red admiral or the painted lady flying toward the British Isles.

But in the fall, butterfly migration is as spectacular in the United States as anywhere else in the world, for here the large and colorful monarchs can be seen during their autumnal journey from Canada to Mexico.

For some reason the monarchs do not congregate during their spring migration; each butterfly makes the trip more or less by itself. For the fall flight, however, thousands of them gather to spend the night in trees and bushes, and then fly off the next day, sometimes working up speeds of 25 miles an hour.

The monarch is not the only butterfly migrant in this country. The buckeye migrates, as does the purple wing, the great southern white, the cloudless sulphur and

Butterfly Migration



the little sulphur.

Butterfly experts have written books on the subject of these migrations, and the experts themselves are the first to declare that very little is known about the phenomenon. No one knows exactly why the migrations occur or what triggers them.

It may be that the butterflies move out because overcrowding makes food scarce in a particular area. Parasites may play an important role. But for the moment, the periodic flight of the butterfly is mostly mystery.

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Acid drainage resulting from coal mining operations is a major water pollution problem in the United States.

Two hundred million humans have simple *goiter*.

The most urgent farm adjustment problem in the United States continues to be that concerning *wheat* production.

Elephantiasis, long a serious disease problem in the tropical Pacific, may cease to exist in islands where an effective new program that combines treatment with a drug and mosquito control has been instituted.

Since 1941, the number of *cows* in the United States decreased 30%, while average milk production per cow increased 48%.

Among adults more than 40 years old *glaucoma* was present in 20 cases out of 1,000 tested.

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