

# • 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 1111. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **CAFE TABLE LEG** is a do-it-yourself pedestal base to which a table top can be attached. Having a center post of polished and lacquered satin brass and legs and base of finished or unfinished wood, it is easily assembled. The leg comes in three heights and the base in three sizes. Table tops of different shapes and sizes are available separately.

• Science News Letter, 80:232 September 30, 1961

☛ **SILVER OXIDE BATTERY** is no larger than a pea and reportedly has higher working voltage and low temperature performance eight times better than other types. Long lasting, it is not affected by temperature changes in weather and its unique sealing system prevents leakage. Sizes to power electric wrist watches and existing hearing aids will soon be available.

• Science News Letter, 80:232 September 30, 1961

☛ **AUTO ALARM UNIT** only 1¾ pounds in weight and 6 x 2 x 3 inches in size can be installed under the hood of any automobile. Wired to the horn and set by a flip of the switch, it gives off a piercing blast at the slightest tampering. The alarm automatically shuts off 15 seconds after tampering has stopped.

• Science News Letter, 80:232 September 30, 1961

☛ **FLOWER ARRANGEMENT** of polyethylene daffodils, lilies-of-the-valley and



bamboo leaves, shown in the photograph, is contained in a milk glass pedestal bowl. The long-lasting natural scent of the flowers reproduced in the 15-inch-tall arrangement brings year-around spring into the home.

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☛ **SHOE EJECTOR** enables a person to remove galoshes and boots without bending over or dirtying the hands. Made of natural

finish cherrywood trimmed in red, it is 4 x 12 inches in size and folds up neatly for storage. Suitable for the hall, clubs and hospitals.

• Science News Letter, 80:232 September 30, 1961

☛ **MECHANIC'S STETHOSCOPE** similar to a doctor's stethoscope locates car trouble by sound. It has an overall length of 43 inches, including a 7½-inch contact rod at its end. By shifting the sound contactor from place to place and comparing sounds, the exact location of mechanical trouble can be quickly pinpointed.

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☛ **FIVE SENSES MODELS** for sight, smell, touch, taste and hearing come in individual kits, easily assembled and twice life-size. The human eye model features the life movement of eye and muscle; the ear kit, unique see-through properties. Inexpensive, and including anatomy charts, the five kits are suitable for schools or individuals.

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☛ **SEAL-LOCK FLUORESCENT DETECTOR** for locating surface cracks, flaws, defects or porosity in metallic and non-metallic solids uses water-soluble materials. A black light source is used to activate the fluorescent materials which appear as glowing lines or spots. Inspection takes only three to five minutes.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

➤ **IN DARK** and secure tunnels, the last bumblebee queens of the season are digging themselves into their hibernating burrows, where they will sleep until April.

Just a short time ago, there was a flurry of activity in the bumblebee world, for during late summer and early autumn the young queen makes her nuptial flight. Like the honeybee queen, she leaves her parental home unattended, finds her mate and almost immediately dismisses him as being of no further biological consequence.

But after the mating, quite unlike the honeybee which returns to the home hive, the bumblebee queen goes through a solitary phase. This occurs when she digs her shallow burrow in the ground and settles down for the long, death-like sleep of hibernation.

When spring comes she emerges from the soil and finds a new homesite—frequently in an abandoned burrow of some other animal—where she digs out a chamber

### Sleep of the Bumblebee



somewhat larger than her winter bedroom. On the floor of the burrow she builds wax containers and fills them with food.

The bumblebee queen then lays her first few eggs. And when the hungry grubs hatch from them, she becomes more zealous than ever before. Only when this first squad of workers is mature enough to seek food for the community does she retire and devote herself fully to the business of egg laying.

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Duodenal ulcer occurs as high as 40% more frequently among individuals with blood group O than in those belonging to the other ABO groups.

Speed is the major cause of accidents, not only for automobiles but for ships.

Antibiotics are being used to protect honeybees from attacks of disease.

Fusion occurs when light atomic nuclei collide, release energy and form heavier atoms.

A newborn baby develops certain postural and tonic reflexes as a result of gravity which determine the nature of his motor reactions for the rest of his life.

Ancient man mined large quantities of gypsum minerals from caves in Mammoth Cave National Park area 3,000 years ago.

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