

• 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 1116. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **BATTERY TERMINAL PULLER** is a pocket-size, C-shaped band of steel, with a screw inserted opposite the open end. The tool will remove corroded terminals from a battery easily and without damage. To loosen the terminal, the open part of the device is slid under the terminal, the screw turned down onto the terminal post and an extra turn given with a wrench.

• Science News Letter, 80:312 November 4, 1961

⚙️ **SCIENCE TEACHING AIDS** for science classes have classroom-tested lectures and complete instructions with as many as six major components included in each apparatus set. Priced to meet school budgets, there are kits on solar radiation, electronics, theory of gravity, optics and other physical laws.

• Science News Letter, 80:312 November 4, 1961

⚙️ **REFLECTING MICROSCOPE** lets the student view microscopic specimen slides with both eyes. The image from the 50- and 100-power microscope with built-in lighting is projected onto an illuminated screen. Two slides are included with the set.

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⚙️ **DRAW-STRING LUNCH BAG** of quilted plastic replaces paper lunch bag. The insulated bag, shown in the photograph, is weatherproof, leakproof and washable. Available in five colors, the bag has



many other uses, such as a beach bag, hosiery bag, litter bag, or for carrying rubbers.

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⚙️ **VACUUM TWEEZER** to pick up miniature objects replaces mechanical tweezers for engineers, jewelers and hobbyists. Connected to a small vacuum generator operating on 110 volts, the aluminum tweezer is

used with stainless steel pick-up needles of various sizes. The vacuum is controlled by covering an opening in the tweezer body with the finger, the object being held without damage until released.

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⚙️ **ZEROZERO CENTER FINDER**, useful in home workshops, for engravers and tool and die men, finds exact centers in seconds. Made of clear plastic, it has no moving parts and requires no calculations to operate. The device will find centers for rounds, squares and octagons up to eight inches and for hexagons up to 5¾ inches.

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⚙️ **MULTIPURPOSE INK MARKERS** in five colors contain waterproof ink that dries instantaneously and is permanent except on china and glass. Sealed in plastic vials with tight-fitting caps, the ink feeds continuously through felt "wedge cut" tips for thick and thin-line writing.

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⚙️ **HIGHWAY WARNING LIGHT** is a battery-powered flasher with a transistorized circuit for high light brilliance and low battery usage. The seven-inch plastic amber-colored lens, impact and weather resistant, forms one piece with the steel-enclosed battery case. The flasher is also useful on out-door construction projects.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

➤ **NOVEMBER** is known as the "Snow Month" and the "Month of the First Frost." It is also the month in which the dense blackish-brown fur of the beaver is at its prime. For this reason the full moon of November is occasionally referred to as the "Beaver Moon."

The animal for which a moon is named is the largest North American rodent. The usual weight of the flat-tailed beaver is 40 to 50 pounds, although 70 pounds is no exception.

The range of this animal is throughout the greater part of the continent. It is likely to be most abundant where aspens and cottonwoods grow. Although these are preferred foods, the beaver also eats the bark of many other trees including alders, birches, and willows.

All autumn long the beaver is unusually active. It puts in extra hours gathering a winter food supply and mending its dam and lodge. The supply of food is anchored in deep water, well below ice level and within easy swimming distance of the lodge.

A cone-shaped affair, the lodge consists

Beaver



of one large room, with a diameter as much as six feet and a three-foot ceiling. This all-purpose room is usually occupied by a family of six—a male and a female and two litters of young.

Whenever a member of a beaver family is hungry, it leaves the lodge by an exit known as the plunge hole, swimming under the ice to the log pile. The beaver selects a log and returns with its log meal. Before entering the chamber, a beaver shakes itself free of water. It eats all the bark from the log in a corn-on-the-cob fashion. The stripped log is tossed into the plunge hole.

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Too few calories plus too little iron in the diet are possible causes of moderate *anemia* found to be widespread among Eskimos of western Alaska.

The U. S. produces about 75% of the world's total fruit and vegetable *juice* supply.

To protect the 30,000,000 acres of *alfalfa* plantings in the U. S. against destructive wilt disease devastating alfalfa in Europe, all imported alfalfa seed is now required to have fungicidal treatment before entry.

Heart weights of many *birds* vary with the season, being larger in winter than in summer.

The *glass* most used today in research industry is borosilicate glass.

One-third of all *cancers* at all sites and all stages are now amenable to cure or long-term survival.

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