

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **HAIR NET VISOR** protects women's hair from machinery. Cool and lightweight, the net covers the hair completely and is adjustable to all head sizes. The green opaque visor shields the eyes from the glare of overhead lights and reflection from shiny metals, relieving eye strain and fatigue.

• Science News Letter, 82:152 September 1, 1962

☛ **UNDERWATER SPEAKER SYSTEM** permits swimming classes, water ballet troupes and others engaged in synchronized water sports to hear instruction or music while practicing or performing. It is also useful for resorts, hotels and country clubs where unusual and impressive entertainment effects are desired.

• Science News Letter, 82:152 September 1, 1962

☛ **DISAPPEARING PLASTIC RIBBON** seals metal to ceramic and then vanishes during the process. The plastic tape will seal metals to ceramic parts of electron tubes with an adhesive strength between five and ten tons per square inch, cutting production time and

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☛ **TOY OIL WELL** is a durable plastic working model of an oil well, complete with live pumping action and an eight-inch derrick. The motor that drives the pumper is



powered by one standard flashlight battery. The pumping action can be speeded up or slowed down by means of a rheostat. Not a kit, it comes completely assembled except for the snap together derrick. (See photograph.)

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☛ **SELF-PROPELLED FISH LURE** moves through the water without being pulled. It dives, climbs, flops on its side and reports back to the surface once a minute, all with a slow erratic movement and a continuous buzzing sound. The plastic, colored lure, measuring two by three-fourths inches, patrols depths down to 15 feet.

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☛ **CIGARETTE SNUFFER** puts out cigarettes quickly and permanently, preventing danger from smoldering cigarettes. Made of solid white porcelain with four holes, the snuffer fits into any ash tray. Drop the lighted end of a cigarette into a hole and it stops smoking immediately. A magnetic car model and a key ring model, both of aluminum, are also available.

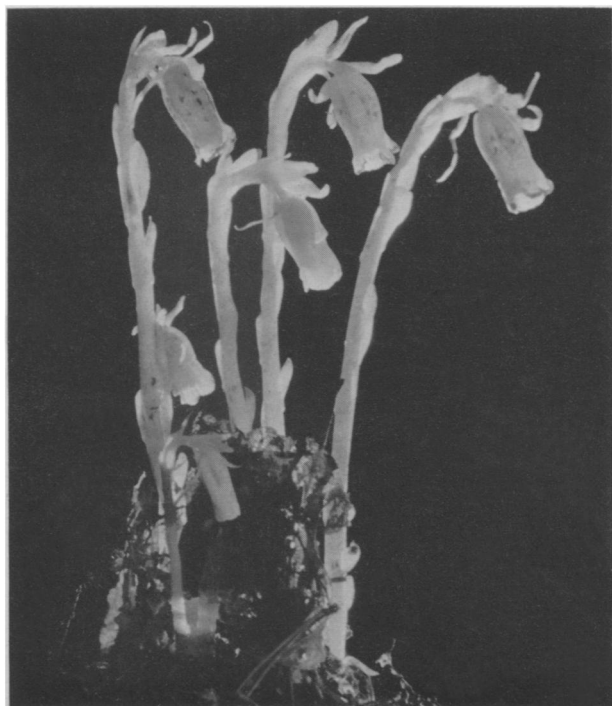
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☛ **REFILLABLE ATOMIZING SPRAYER** for home and industry converts liquids quickly and economically into spray form. Made of stainless steel, the sprayer is recharged with a carbon dioxide cartridge available at local stores. The liquid is poured into the sprayer, the cartridge inserted, the plug screwed on, and the atomizer is ready for use. Any non-coagulating liquid can be used.

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## Nature Ramblings



### CORPSE-PLANTS

By WILLIAM E. SMALL

➤ ONE OF NATURE'S strangest creations, the ghostly corpse-plant or Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), is withering after a summer of warmth and fertility. Its blooms are turning as black as the decaying vegetable matter on which it lived.

Indian pipes are a prized find for botanists and outdoorsmen throughout the United States and Canada. They grow in the darkened forests and tangled fields in nearly every state. Occasionally they even creep into the edges of civilization, showing up in a garden or unkempt yard.

The ghostly white plants are scientifically known as saprophytes; that is, they live on dead and decaying organisms. They are not parasites as many persons believe, however. Lacking chlorophyll, the green food-making pigment, they must depend upon the materials in other dead plants.

They spring from matted roots the whole summer long. The white stems push through the tangled leaves and sticks to a height of six to ten inches. Nodding flowers less than one inch long terminate these waxy, hairy stalks. The bloom resembles the bowl of ancient Indian pipes.

The flower remains nodding until it is fertilized. Then it turns upright, suggesting the origin of the Greek name which means "one turn." After fertilization, the plants turn brown and wither.

Indian pipes turn jet-black in age and will quickly darken if picked. Common practice of flower lovers is to leave the plants where they grow since they are almost impossible to transplant. In some states they are protected by law.

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