

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 908. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **PARKING METER REMINDER** is designed like a man's wrist watch and has a clock-like hand indicating the expiration of parking time. It also serves as a coin holder for eight nickels or dimes. The plastic holder and timer weighs one ounce.

Science News Letter, November 9, 1957

⚙️ **HOBBY CHEST** is said to contain every craft tool a beginning or experienced craftsman needs. Together with a full line of cutting knives, the kit has a hand drill, vise, block plane, sander, spoke-shave, hammer and other tools. It is housed in a wood chest.

Science News Letter, November 9, 1957

⚙️ **CAR BAG** for preventing littering of the highways is a heavy duty canvas caddy. The 11-inch-high sack is mounted on a frame that hooks on to the back of any front seat. Water-repellent and mildew-resistant, the bag is five inches wide and seven inches long.

Science News Letter, November 9, 1957

⚙️ **KITCHEN CUTLERY** features handles designed to fit a woman's hand. The black wooden handles, shown in the photograph, are impervious to heat and acids. Flat-ground knife blades can be resharpened by



any conventional knife sharpener. The knives are said to do away with the old heavy butchering type knives.

Science News Letter, November 9, 1957

⚙️ **NAME PLATES** for toys keep junior's playthings identifiable. Made of highly polished brass, they are applied with self-adhesive backing. First names in century

type letters are engraved on the plates which are one-half inch by one inch.

Science News Letter, November 9, 1957

⚙️ **BICYCLE RADIO** can be mounted on the handle bars of a bicycle, motorbike or motorcycle. A German development, the radio looks like a bicycle light. Powered by a small anode battery, the radio has a range of from 520 to 1620 kilocycles.

Science News Letter, November 9, 1957

⚙️ **ROLLING DOOR** of aluminum and insulating glass is designed for economical maintenance. The door for patios and terraces can be adjusted with a screwdriver. It rides on nylon wheels encasing steel ball bearings and is weatherstripped in vinyl plastic, wool pile and polyethylene. The door is available in five widths from 6 to 16 feet.

Science News Letter, November 9, 1957

⚙️ **SLIDE VIEWER** can handle up to 20 slides of 35 mm size at once. A desk-top unit, it measures eight inches high, eight inches deep and 12 inches wide. The screen is made of a translucent acrylic plastic formed with a series of narrow shelves to hold slides or negatives.

Science News Letter, November 9, 1957



## Nature Ramblings



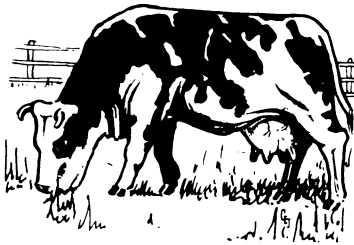
By HORACE LOFTIN

### Beating the Heat

► THERE is nothing "homier" than a herd of Jersey or Guernsey cows grazing contentedly on a rolling pasture. On the other hand, the sight of flap-eared, wide-horned, high-humped Brahma or Sindhi cattle lolling on a flat, sunbaked prairie seems to sum up pictures of the exotic.

Historically, the Jerseys, Guernseys and most of the other familiar breeds had their origins in north Europe, where coolness of climate was typical. Transplanted to America, these breeds have done well over the temperate states. However, in the subtropical regions of the country, bordering the Gulf of Mexico mainly, these northern cattle do not perform so well in milk or meat production.

In recent years large numbers of the Brahma and Sindhi, both Zebu-type cattle, have been imported and bred in this subtropical region of the United States. Now these languorous beasts can be seen in herds all through the Gulf area, grazing and



fattening on land once fit only for rattlesnakes and alligators.

These odd-looking, exotic cattle from Asia are well adapted for life in tropic temperatures, which accounts for their great value in the South today. Yet it remains something of a scientific mystery just how these "Zebu" cattle keep cool.

It was once commonly thought that the flapping ears, the hump on his back and the loose-hanging dewlap of skin beneath his

throat accounted for much of the Zebu's heat resistance.

While scientists thought the hump contained special structures for temperature management, the other structures were believed to increase surface area for perspiration.

Putting theory to test, U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists removed the dewlap from a purebred Sindhi bull by surgery. No change could be noted in the animal's ability to withstand heat.

They also dissected the hump of a slaughtered Sindhi and found nothing more interesting than a well-marbled boneless chunk of meat. No heat control was apparent here.

Neither has evidence been found yet that the big ears help much—even as fans!

Whatever the Zebu's mechanism for beating the heat, it can be transferred at least in part to hybrid young. Crosses have been made between Zebus and northern breeds, resulting in animals that show good beef production in the hottest climate.

Science News Letter, November 9, 1957