

# • 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 1130. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **DIAGNOSIS SKETCH SHEET** enables the physician or surgeon to draw a visual sketch of his diagnosis to help the patient understand his illness and cooperate during treatment. Each detachable sheet of a pad contains a fully labeled sketch of the glands and organs on one side and the skeleton and nervous system on the other. Notations can be made on the sheet and given to the patient for further study.

• Science News Letter, 81:96 February 10, 1962

⊗ **CHILD'S AUTO SAFETY BELT** has a sliding metal ring that fastens the body belt to the belt secured to the seat back. This allows a child to sit, stand, twist or wiggle. Quickly removable by a special fingertip-action clasp, the belt of white cotton webbing is adjustable to fit any child and any one-piece front or rear auto seat.

• Science News Letter, 81:96 February 10, 1962

⊗ **BATTERY TOTE CART** consists of a steel platform 14x7½ inches with a high steel back panel mounted on two rubber tires. A tubular steel push-pull handle extends to a convenient height. Ideal for repair shops and garages, the cart will hold a 12-volt battery and many other heavy items.

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⊗ **TWO-COMPARTMENT PET FEEDER** of easy-to-clean polyethylene plastic has a section for water and one for food. Deeply



contoured to decrease spillage, it is shaped to fit in room corners. Fin-like mounts elevate the feeder, enabling the animal to eat at a more comfortable height, and reduce skidding action of the dish, shown in the photograph.

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⊗ **SAW FILING GUIDE** that simplifies saw sharpening consists of a base with a lengthwise slot to straddle the saw teeth. On this is riveted a swivel piece with arm

brackets to hold the file. Screws hold the file securely at the desired angle and bevel. Made of cadmium-plated steel with a handle of hard wood, the guide accommodates files up to seven inches in length.

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⊗ **NEW HOOKLESS HANGER** for kitchen or shop holds tools safely and securely by pushing the handle of the item into a row of tough but flexible rubber fingers that grasp with a firm grip. The heavier the item, the tighter the grip is. The easily mounted hanger is 18 inches long and made of heavy gauge aluminum.

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⊗ **FLEXIBLE TUBING CONNECTOR** is a two-piece plastic device serving both as a linkage for the tubing and as a stopcock. It is highly resistant to laboratory chemicals and breakage. Lightweight and only 3¾ inches in length, the connector can withstand as much as 40 pounds of pressure.

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⊗ **MECHANICAL LOCK-IN THERMOMETER** to take temperatures of petroleum, syrups and other commercial fluids in storage tanks is lowered with a graduated tape to the tank level to be measured. The reading is locked in place by pulling on the tape. A few taps will unlock the pointer, making it ready for the next reading.

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## Nature Ramblings



## Do You Know?

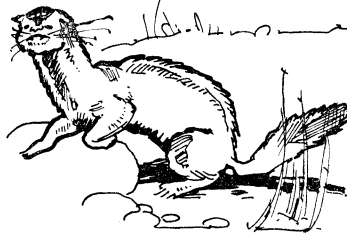
► **THE SOLITARY MINK** is one of the best-known members of the weasel family—the *Mustelidae*. Sleek and nearly uniform umber brown, the mink is widely distributed throughout North America. In Alaska and along the Pacific Coast, this fur mammal is usually larger and darker than elsewhere on the continent. Those of the Gulf states are lighter in color and weight than those of other areas. Abroad the mink is found in northern Europe and in Siberia.

Among the weasels the mink is probably the most versatile member of the family, too. It catches its prey in the water, on the land, or above ground in the trees. It feeds on fishes, amphibians, ground and tree squirrels, and mice. As a rule this animal hunts at night, but it is not unusual to see one during the day.

In the wild, a mink generally dens near water—in a hollow log, under a stump, or in a bank burrow. A mile-wide area around the den is the territory traveled by the mink in pursuit of prey.

Mating takes place from early February

### Mink



to late March. The male mates with many females, but will settle down with one to help provide food for the litter of three to eight.

At birth, minks are smaller than a finger, blind and nearly naked. They are weaned at five weeks and first leave the den in six to eight weeks. At eight months the males may be as large as the mother, who is one-half to three-fourths the size of the adult male. When the young finally leave the nest, father resumes his solitary way of life.

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An orange tree in Florida produces about 600 pounds of fruit a year while in Egypt the average tree yields about 60 pounds, one of the lowest yields in the world.

*Aedes aegypti*, the mosquito that spreads yellow fever, has now been eradicated in 13 countries and three territories of the Americas.

Engineers foresee the day when the pressure of record changers on record grooves, which amounted to a half pound only 20 years ago, will be next to nothing, making it almost impossible to scratch a phonograph record.

*Tristeza*, one of the most virulent diseases of citrus trees, can totally destroy a tree in three months.

Enrollment of full and part-time college students in the U. S. increased this fall for the tenth consecutive year to an all-time high of 3,891,000.

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