

• 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 1139. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

❁ **ICE-PROOF LABEL ADHESIVE** is good for labeling soda bottles or food containers that must be stored under refrigerated conditions. It is easily applied by machine and is available in 5-gallon and 55-gallon containers.

• Science News Letter, 81:240 April 14, 1962

❁ **FAUCET DRIP-STOPPER** can be used for hot or cold water taps. Consisting of a plastic cup the size of a washer, split rivet and a rubber disk, the stopper replaces the usual washer and screw. Easy to install, its free-turning feature assures a water-tight seal. Two sizes that fit most faucets are available.

• Science News Letter, 81:240 April 14, 1962

❁ **PLASTIC FUEL TANKS** for Tornado engines in model airplanes provide a maximum fuel supply while helping keep overhead weight to a minimum. The fuel level is visible through the translucent tank which is highly resistant to fuel chemicals. The tank's high impact strength reduces the hazard of damage on crash landings.

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❁ **ROLLER SKIS** for children, shown in the photograph, are tough but flexible small plastic skis mounted on roller skate carriages. A pair of metal pushpoles come with the set to provide realism. Tapered toe cups on the skates eliminate the need for

clamps and keys and hold the feet securely and comfortably.

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❁ **HIGHCHAIR BIB** of vinylite plastic covers the baby and attaches to the arms

of a high chair. Securely tied around the chair by tape, the bib has a pocket to catch any food that is spilled. It will fit a child up to three years old.

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❁ **SERVING CARTS** for hospitals, restaurants or schools are designed to accommodate service or dish trays. Made in 11 models, the cart has smooth rolling wheels, a chromium plated tubular frame and strong stainless steel beveled shelves. The frame forms a handle at each end.

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❁ **SOIL-TESTING PAPER** comes in a roll in a clear plastic dispenser. The paper is pulled through a cutting-edge jaw, torn off, wetted with the test solution and matched against the pH color chart on the dispenser. If contaminated by fumes, the change in color is immediately visible.

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❁ **INDUSTRIAL WALKWAYS** are made to order through use of a new safety flooring and prefabricated bridge structure. Platforms, gangways, catwalks or bridges spanning distances of 20 feet or more use no intermediate supports. Supplied with hand rails, the walkways use either open or closed types of tread. The lightweight structures are speedily installed at low cost.

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Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

► WITH THE COMING of summer, the heralding lilies begin to spread their lovely petals to the sun. The lily family (*Liliaceae*) is one of the best loved of the American wildflower groups.

The large family, some 4,000 species, includes the hyacinth and tulip, asparagus, chives and onions, and the yucca, as well as the well-known Easter and tiger lilies, the wild yellow lily and Turk's-cap lily.

Most of the species rise from underground bulbs perennially. The leaves range from very narrow to quite broad, and are marked by parallel veins.

The lily flower has generally six similarly colored segments: three sepals and three petals. It contains both stamens (male) and pistils (female), thus being termed a "perfect" flower.

In some of the lilies the flower is found in the nodding position, with the petals flared and curled back. In others, the flower

is proudly erect, with the chalice standing open to the sun.

The fruit of the lily is a capsule, or a berry.

The lily family is common across the United States and, in fact, is found in most countries of the world.

The simple beauty, the attractive scent and abundance make the plant well known and revered.

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Lilies

High-frequency sound has been used to push an ointment into animal muscle.

Aluminum has been found suitable for use in the construction of sea water distillation equipment.

Impulses from the primary olfactory fibers in the frog, two-tenths of a micron in diameter, have been recorded for the first time.

Bionics, a new field of science, brings together the efforts of physical scientists and life scientists in order to develop machines which mimic nature's ways.

California leads the nation in the value of its lithium production.

The total number of passengers carried by all U.S. airlines in 1961 was 57,600,000 as compared with 57,700,000 in 1960.

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