

• 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 1142. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **VOLUME-CONTROL PHONE RECEIVER** handset, especially designed for people with impaired hearing, fits any of the modern telephones. Looking like a handset on a regular phone, it includes a tiny control device for adjusting the loudness of incoming calls to the best listening level, and is suitable for home or office.

• Science News Letter, 81:288 May 5, 1962

⚙️ **ELECTRONIC MESSAGE PRINTER** prints up to 3,000 words per minute from telephone, telegraph and microwave links, reproducing the most complex characters and symbols accurately. Compact, quiet, and giving reliable unattended operation, it is suitable for offices and communications centers. Replacing paper rolls does not interrupt the printer's operation.

• Science News Letter, 81:288 May 5, 1962

⚙️ **PORTABLE SCALER** is a battery-operated unit useful for pipeline or field tracing with Geiger counters, radioactive monitoring and process or flow monitoring. Weighing only two pounds, the scaler has conveniently arranged controls on its front panel and has a count capacity up to 9,999.

• Science News Letter, 81:288 May 5, 1962

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC ELECTRIC CANDLE**, shown in the photograph, lights when it is picked up and shuts off when set down, or stays lighted by flipping a switch. The



candle's clear lucite crown makes it an ideal night light with many uses. Standard "C" batteries are used in the candle.

• Science News Letter, 81:288 May 5, 1962

⚙️ **INSTANT FURNACE** for science classrooms and laboratories provides temperatures exceeding 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit within seconds. Applying a new heating concept, the controlled electric current is

conducted directly to a graphite cloth on which the sample rests. The furnace, available in 110- and 220-volt models, cools to a harmless temperature level in two minutes.

• Science News Letter, 81:288 May 5, 1962

⚙️ **LABORATORY POTENTIOMETER** is suitable for calibrating meters, checking standard cells and resistances and measuring temperature by thermocouples. A ratio-multiplier switch gives the compact, six-pound potentiometer three full scale ranges.

• Science News Letter, 81:288 May 5, 1962

⚙️ **DUST-FREE ENCLOSURE**, weighing only 60 pounds, is a work enclosure for space age environmental contaminant control. Molded from clear plastic and free of leakage from seams or joints, it can be sealed from contamination when not in use. A full-width, hinged front view panel of safety glass allows loading of large assemblies.

• Science News Letter, 81:288 May 5, 1962

⚙️ **TIMING LIGHT** for automotive shop and service operations is enclosed in a shock-proof plastic case. A spring-supported flash tube that snaps in place, eliminating the need to solder wires when replacing a flash tube, assures a permanently accurate focus. The timing light can be immediately converted from 6 to 12 volts and back again.

• Science News Letter, 81:288 May 5, 1962



Nature Ramblings



Do You Know?

► **DINOSAURS** 25 feet high, 80 feet long and weighing more than 85 tons roamed the earth during the Mesozoic era, some 60 to 175 million years ago, long before man came on the scene.

These "terrible lizards" were cold-blooded reptiles, related to the crocodiles and snakes of present day. Although they ceased to exist 60,000,000 years ago their fossil remains can be measured to give accurate pictures of these ancient beasts.

The largest of these were the Sauropods, "thunder lizards," with long, snake-like necks and tails. They fed on plants, as most dinosaurs did, and lived in swamps or near the lake shore.

The Theropods, or "flesh-eaters," included the oldest and smallest of all dinosaurs, but the largest, Tyrannosaurus, was a deadly killer, with six-inch teeth set in a crushing jaw. The meat eaters stood on their powerful hind legs, since the forelegs were usually underdeveloped.

The mighty Stegosaurs enjoyed a brief history on earth, although they were pro-

Dinosaurs



tected by a double row of armor plates down the back and the massive spikes on their swishing tails.

Ornithopods, "the bird-footed" dinosaurs, and Ankylosaurs, "the dinosaur tanks," were among the curious reptile groups which competed in the earth's early environment.

The last major group to appear on earth were the "horned dinosaurs," Ceratopsians, which had necks and heads covered with horns and skull plates.

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Bees may spend more time cooling their hives than producing honey or pollinating crops when temperatures rise above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

The formation of gum in gasoline has been traced to five chemical groups, sulfur compounds, nitrogen compounds, olefins, benzene-type compounds and materials that have naphthalene-type structures.

Mosaic viruses of the raspberry are spread by certain aphids.

Losses to the cotton industry due to the boll weevil average \$350,000,000 annually.

Photos of the ocean depths have shown curious ferromanganese nodules in multi-million-ton concentrations.

Ocean depths are divided into three major realms, bathyl, to 2,000 meters, abyssal, to 6,000 meters and hadal, below 6,000 meters.

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