

• 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 1148. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **SMALL-ANIMAL METABOLISM CHAMBER** for use in rat breath analysis studies is made of glass allowing the animal to be viewed at all times and reducing contamination problems. Accommodating rats over a wide range of body weights, blood and other samples may be obtained without interruption of the breath analysis.

• Science News Letter, 81:384 June 16, 1962

⚙️ **POWER WASH** for washing cars, screens, bricks, trellises or dogs is a brush that attaches to a garden hose. Molded in one piece from plastic, the bristles of the brush are soft and will not scratch.

• Science News Letter, 81:384 June 16, 1962

⚙️ **INSTANT WATER HEATER** is a lightweight electric heater that screws on to the cold water faucet. By turning a switch to "hot," piping hot water is produced in 10 seconds. For cold water, the switch is turned to "cold." An automatic thermostat prevents the heater element from burning out.

• Science News Letter, 81:384 June 16, 1962

⚙️ **FENCE-LIFTER**, shown in the photograph, eases the task of lawn trimming at the base of chain link fences by lifting the fence to a height providing clearance for lawn mowers or wheelbarrows. The fence fabric is attached to an aluminum strip that



slides up and down an aluminum track secured to the fence post. The device is installed with no special tools on either old or new fence.

• Science News Letter, 81:384 June 16, 1962

⚙️ **PISTOL-TYPE HOSE NOZZLE** gives one-hand spray control. A flick of the thumb turns the water on, adjusts the flow from a fine mist to a jet spray or turns it

off immediately. Made of non-corroding zinc with chrome plate finish, it can also be used for insecticide sprayings.

• Science News Letter, 81:384 June 16, 1962

⚙️ **MINIATURE ASSEMBLIES CLEANER** is a functional cleaner for precision micro-miniature components and tiny intricate mechanisms. Adaptable to all vacuum pick-up systems, it removes minute particles, dust and lint from otherwise inaccessible areas. Disposable filtrators eliminate all traces of harmful contaminants.

• Science News Letter, 81:384 June 16, 1962

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC SAMPLE DISPENSER** for laboratories saves time, eliminates contamination and helps in the safe handling of hazardous chemicals. By pressing on a foot switch, a pre-set volume of a sample will be diluted and dispensed from the apparatus with an accuracy of about .5%. No maintenance or lubrication of the apparatus is necessary.

• Science News Letter, 81:384 June 16, 1962

⚙️ **DISPOSABLE SHOWER CAP** made of plastic is packaged individually for one-time use. Made of lightweight plastic, it slips on and off easily without binding elastic and conforms to various hair styles. The cap is especially suitable for use in hospitals, hotels or club locker rooms.

• Science News Letter, 81:384 June 16, 1962



Nature Ramblings



House Wren

Photograph by GEORGE A. SMITH • Text by WILLIAM E. SMALL

➤ THE FAMILIAR HOUSE WREN is an active bird during the summer months, mating and raising two or three broods during a single season. At home around people, wrens will build nests in mailboxes, bird houses, behind loose boards or in a handy hornets' nest.

Troglodytes aedon is found from southern Canada to Mexico, breeding throughout the United States. Its fussing and bustling activities and rapid, stuttering song make it one of the most well-known species in this country.

A house wren is recognized by its small stubby shape and tail-cocking habit. It is grayish-brown, lacking unusual markings.

The male wren selects the area for nesting, building several flimsy, conspicuous nests in the vicinity of the well-constructed but bulky laying nest. The female lines the latter and finishes it for occupancy. The extra nests may serve to fool the lazy cowbird.

Although very common around human dwellings, the house wren is equally at home in the wild, nesting near or on the ground in any natural hole, tangle of roots or woodpecker holes as their ancestors did.

The female lays several pinkish eggs and incubates them alone. The male supplies her with insects and worms. Both adults care for the young after they hatch.

The male may sleep in another of his nests or in a nearby crevice and has been found dozing in scarecrows and in pockets of shirts hung on clotheslines.

• Science News Letter, 81:384 June 16, 1962