

• New Machines and Gadgets •

If you want more information on the new things described here, send a three-cent stamp to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., Washington 6, D. C. and ask for Gadget Bulletin 418. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **ROLLING-PIN** is made of an aluminum tube with one end removable so that ice may be packed within for the cold-rolling of dough. This device may be used also for a cocktail shaker.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

⚙️ **ELECTRIC-LOUPE**, equipped with a comfortable, plastic-covered head band and a light-weight, flexible cord running into the transformer, is designed for watchmakers, toolmakers, engravers and others who need clear, cool light on their work. It plugs into any 110-volt outlet, reducing the current to 7.5 volts.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

⚙️ **HOME HEATING** equipment utilizes natural gas during mild weather and fuel oil in severely cold weather, an outside thermostat switching automatically from one fuel to the other at a pre-determined temperature. A single unit burns both fuels, the oil being vaporized in a shallow pan where it is heated by a small gas burner.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

⚙️ **MINIATURE MICROPHONE**, about the size of a package of cigarettes and small enough not to hide the face of a speaker at a public meeting, is made possible by designing the magnetic structure as a part of the case. It is claimed to have the sensitivity of the finest broadcasting microphones now in use.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

⚙️ **BARRETTE**, shown in the picture, is made of flexible plastic in an ingenious one-piece design based on the simple under-and-over, figure-eight princi-



ple. It is a self-locking device that does away with the conventional hook-type, and its contour shape permits it to lie close to the head.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

⚙️ **SEARCHLIGHT** for Coast Guard cutters, a remote-control device with 32,000,000 candlepower, uses a 900-watt mercury lamp no longer than a kitchen match. Control panels, each with hand-wheels for traversing or elevating the searchlight, are placed at various points on the vessel, and can be operated by one man.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

⚙️ **CONFIDENTIAL RECORDING** system consists of a plastic tracking disk which, when used with a machine that magnetically records on thin paper or

plastic records, produces a voice unintelligible to anyone who plays it back unless he has an identical tracking disk of the same code. Each purchaser has a set of identical disks and no others are made exactly the same.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

⚙️ **BACKING MATERIAL** for floor rugs comes as a white liquid rubber but dries in an hour to form a tough, transparent film which prevents rugs from slipping when walked on. Treated rugs are still washable, and the material does not come off on the floor. It will be available in pint containers for home use.

Science News Letter, June 12, 1948

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Question Box

AGRICULTURE

What untapped sources of edible oil have been found? p. 374.

ENTOMOLOGY

What results were obtained after testing DDT in a wind tunnel? p. 380.

MEDICINE-ZOOLOGY

What advantages do shrews have for medical research? p. 373.

Photographs: Cover, p. 373, Fremont Davis; p. 371, The Warner & Swasey Co.; p. 374, FAO-Dr. Dale Jenkins; p. 375, Westinghouse Electric Corp.; p. 373, p. 379, Du Pont Co.

What results have been obtained with KR, the anti-cancer serum? p. 371.

ORNITHOLOGY

What is the latest evidence regarding guides to bird migration? p. 373.

ZOOLOGY

What have experiments revealed about rat sociology? p. 382.

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