

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **RUST INHIBITOR**, a magnesium alloy, is mounted under an automobile radiator cap to protect the water-cooling system from rusting. The device corrodes away in from six months to a year's time, depositing at the same time a metallic corrosion-resistant and heat-conducting film throughout the cooling system.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

⚙️ **LIGHT SUPPORT** for amateur movie makers holds two reflector-flood or reflector-spot lamps on adjustable arms that can be folded out of the way when not in use. Equipped with a 10-foot cord and individual light switches, the support fits any movie or still camera having a standard tripod socket.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

⚙️ **"COLD GALVANIZING"** compound for home use protects the surfaces of drain pipes, casement windows, fenders and other metals subject to rust. The compound dries within 48 hours and should be coated with an oil-base paint for complete protection from rust.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

⚙️ **FLUORESCENT MERCURY lamp** for large industrial areas produces "golden white" light when ultraviolet rays gene-



rated in the mercury tube strike an outer glass envelope covered with red-glowing phosphors. Made in 1,000- and 400-watt sizes, the lamp has high efficiency and is suitable where close color discrimination is not required.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

⚙️ **RECORD PLAYER** is especially good in music shops where rough handling of phonograph equipment causes damage.

Except for putting the record on the turntable, the player is completely automatic, working from pushbuttons. Built-in protection prevents listeners from touching the tone arm.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

⚙️ **PRACTICE GOLF ball** made of a cellular plastic weighs only 1/13 as much as a standard ball and travels about 100 feet with "good drives." Resembling a real golf ball in size, color and appearance, the practice ball responds to slices, hooks and faulty swings just as standard balls, thus helping the golfer improve his game with less walking.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

⚙️ **GLOSS COATING liquid** protects automobile finishes and chrome trim from blazing, tropical sunlight, or from thick, city smog. Easily applied, the liquid is spread over the surface and lightly wiped into brilliance with a dry cloth.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

⚙️ **CLOTHESLINE PULLEY** has extra wide lips and is attached to a pole or other object by a device that allows clothes to be pulled right around the pulley, thus doubling pulley-line capacity.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952

# • Nature Ramblings •

➤ FREQUENTLY WE hear of a person living on the farm or in the woods who has "tamed" some wild animal not usually kept as a pet, like a porcupine, or a groundhog, or a skunk, or even a toad.

We may also hear of animals in a given locality being so "tame" that one can walk right up to them. Both of these uses of the word are somewhat inaccurate. Ordinarily timorous or cautious animals, like deer or beaver, that let you approach them should properly be called fearless. Actually such fearlessness is the normal attitude of animals toward man unless he has given them cause to regard him as a predator, and in the same class with wolves and wildcats.

The person with a "tame" wild animal as a rule gets no further than having offerings of food accepted, or perhaps being permitted to stroke its fur or scratch its ears. This degree of intimacy is tolerated, and even apparently enjoyed, by a great variety of animals, which otherwise live their normal wilderness lives. Naturalists refer to such animals as "familiar."

## Tame or Familiar?



A step toward real tameness comes if the animal consents to share quarters with its human friend. That is an approach to what zoologists call commensalism, which merely means living in the same house. As a matter of fact, some of our supposedly domesticated animals, cats for example, though housemates of man for scores of generations, are really no tamer than that. They accept our food, affection and shelter, and give us nothing in return but their pleasant company. The same can be done with

prairie-dog or armadillo, starting from scratch.

An animal may be regarded as fully tamed when it makes some tangible return to its human partner for the favors it receives, such as helping in hunting, or guarding property, or bearing burdens. Dogs illustrate this behavior phase very well, and so do horses. Some cats approach this level but they are exceptional individuals.

Wild animals can be fully and satisfactorily tamed. Wild horses, after proper handling, become good saddle and draft animals. Wild elephants are constantly being rounded up in the Asiatic tropics, and live long lives of service to man. Hawks and cheetahs, the very symbols of fierce independence, are captured and tamed into excellent hunting servants.

There is thus no question of the tamability of wild animals; only, before we call an animal tame, we should assure ourselves that its behavior toward man qualifies it for that title.

Science News Letter, August 9, 1952