

• New Machines and Gadgets •

For addresses where you can get 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 647. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **STORM WINDOW** installer permits one person to hang storm windows without using ladders or a helper. The collapsible tripod-like device clamps in the windows, providing a support for the storm window until the operator can hook it in place. Using the device in tests, a teen-aged girl hung 10 windows in less than an hour.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

⚙️ **EXPOSURE METER** featuring a super-sensitive photo-electric cell works with all kinds of still and movie cameras, using black-and-white or color films. Covering a full range of exposures from 1/1600th second to four minutes, and diaphragm stops from f1.5 to f22, the device also takes the guesswork out of slow-motion movie exposures.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

⚙️ **"SOFT" CONCRETE** for basementless houses almost has the resiliency of oak floors and about four times the insulating properties of regular concrete. The material contains sand and vermiculite, a spongy mineral of the mica family containing tiny air cells. Tile, linoleum, terrazzo or carpeting can be laid directly on the concrete.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

⚙️ **CAR PARKER** allows motorists to park in spaces only 18 inches longer than their



cars. The car is nosed into a parking space and a dashboard lever is turned. The spare tire lowers hydraulically until it lifts the car's rear wheels as shown in the photograph, then it rolls the rear end of the car to the curb. The device also can be used to get the car out of a tight spot.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

⚙️ **PLASTIC TEMPLATE** with no moving parts is laid on blueprints for direct

measurement of circular and rectangular areas. Requiring no multiplication by the user, the transparent device also can yield volumes of drawn-to-scale cylinders and cubes.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

⚙️ **DUST CLOTH** is impregnated with a chemical that removes dust and dust-attracting static electricity from television screens and plastic-covered furniture. Originally developed for industrial use, the cloth now is to be marketed in an 18-inch-square size for housewives.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

⚙️ **TV SIGNAL** booster using three vacuum tubes amplifies weak video signals received at the antenna, feeding the strengthened signals into the TV set for channel selection. Connected so that it is turned on and off with the TV set, the device is designed for use in fringe areas and where only indoor antennas are permitted.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

⚙️ **BOOKBINDING KIT**, consisting of a hand punch and 150 crack-resistant vinyl plastic binding tubes, permits the amateur to bind inexpensively themes, photographs, blueprints and papers into neat, permanent or loose-leaf albums.

Science News Letter, November 8, 1952

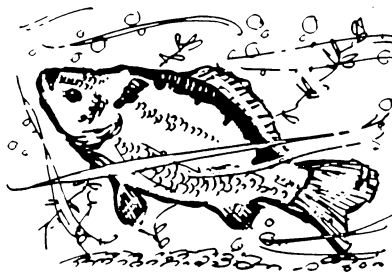
• Nature Ramblings •

► WITH THE vanishing of many of our summertime friends from the forests and fields, we try to make up for their absence by paying more attention to pets and plants.

Among pets, tropical fish, including goldfish, are very good things for busy people or for inhabitants of crowded city quarters where the more free-ranging cats and house dogs are troublesome and often forbidden by hard-hearted landlords. The fish take up little room, they make no noise or muss, they cannot run away, and they do not complain, nor even suffer, if they miss a meal or two.

As a matter of fact, fish are more apt to suffer from being fed too often. Used as we are to three square meals a day ourselves, and to feeding our warm-blooded pets at least once or twice a day, we are apt to force their wafer-like food upon the fish as often, to the detriment of their health.

Goldfish



They simply will not eat that much, and the excess material floats about until it becomes soaked, and then disintegrates, fouling the water and making it very bad for breathing for the creature's gills. Excess food in the tank also encourages the growth of algae.

The best way to safeguard against the growth of algae is to make sure that the aquarium's sanitation is good and that the light is reduced to the point where few algae will grow, but the plants will still be healthy—a happy medium that sometimes takes a little experimenting to hit. As a general rule, eight hours of light a day is sufficient to insure plant growth.

If you already have algae in your aquarium, one effective method for getting rid of them is to add one-eighth of a grain, by weight, of potassium permanganate to one gallon of water. The chemical will turn the contents first purple, then brown.

Goldfish will survive such a treatment, but tropical fish must be removed. The aquarium, of course, will become algae-ridden again unless proper safeguards are taken for good sanitation and the right light balance.

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