

# • New Machines and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D.C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 926. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

NON-INFLAMMABLE ADHESIVE can be used to bond leather, wood, fabric, paper, felt and other porous materials to metal. Permanently flexible, the adhesive can be applied by spray, brush or with a roller coating machine.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1958

LEAK-PROOF ALKALINE CELL is described as providing up to ten times longer service than a standard flashlight cell. The cell will supply high currents in continuous service and perform in temperature ranges of from minus 40 to 200 degrees Fahrenheit. It is available in two sizes, the "D" weighing 3.8 ounces and the one-half length "D" weighing 1.6 ounces.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1958

CANVAS BEACH THROW is six feet nine inches long and 31 inches wide. It can be rolled into a small cylinder shape and tied with a tape attached to throw fringes at each end. A matching canvas bag is also available. They come in candy stripe or solid colors.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1958

FOLDING TABLE-AND-SEATS can be used indoors and outdoors. The single-piece combination, shown in the photograph, stands on four legs. It folds into a self-



contained carrying case weighing 32½ pounds and can be stored in a space four inches wide. Top and pull-out seats are made of tempered masonite.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1958

POWER SUPPLY is designed to convert a workbench to an electrical bench. The portable unit plugs into any standard

115 volt AC outlet. The four-station AC-DC power supply has six outlets for soldering irons, motors, etc. Replaceable panel fuses protect against overload. The unit measures 26 by 10 inches and weighs 51 pounds.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1958

MINNOW PAIL is a two-piece-floating and silent fisherman's aid. The outer bucket is made of polyethylene plastic and is non-sinkable. The inner bucket is also made of the plastic and has a built-in floating chamber. An upright fin at the bottom of the inner bucket helps retrieve minnows.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1958

SCREWDRIVER SET contains a reversible screwdriver, cuff links and tie clasp. The screwdriver blade has a 3/16ths inch regular bit at one end and a No. 1 Phillips bit at the other end. The links and tie clasp have matching miniature screwdrivers set in a black oval.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1958

MARINE COMPASS is liquid damped for greater stability. The compass card is designed to tilt 35 degrees in any direction and is graduated in five degrees and numbered every 30. For nighttime use, it is wired for internal illumination.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1958



## Nature Ramblings



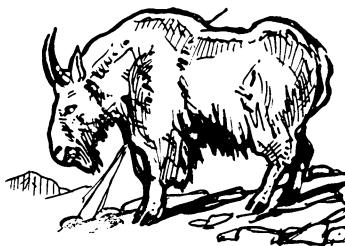
By HORACE LOFTIN

PERHAPS a graceful gazelle or antelope furnished the inspiration for the first ballet or toe dance by humans. Certainly these creatures, along with the goats, sheep, deer, and other hoofed animals, are past masters at ballet, for they spend their lives on their tip-toes. They walk, run, prance and climb on the very tips of their digits.

Actually, it would be more precise to say they do these things on their toenails instead of their toes, since the hoof is a modified nail.

In general, the hoofed animals can be placed in one of two orders on the basis of whether they have an even or odd number of toes. In America north of Panama, there is only one native representative of the odd-toed mammals, the tapir. The even-toed mammals, or Artiodactyla,

### Even-Toed Mammals



are well-represented, however, by the peccaries, deer, pronghorns, bison, sheep and goats.

Exceptions prove the rule, it is said. The exception to be noted here is the peccary. This pig-like animal of the American Southwest has four toes on his forefeet while his hind feet have three digits each. However,

our North American artiodactyls are typically even-toed.

The even-toed condition is obtained by the suppression or underdevelopment of the first or inner digit, leaving four functional digits; or, more often, by the suppression of all the toes except the third and fourth.

The habit of walking on the toes (digitigrade), as opposed to walking on the sole of the foot (plantigrade), is generally associated with fleetness. And, with few exceptions, most of the hoofed animals depend on speed as their chief defense from enemies. They are almost entirely plant eaters.

Except for the peccary, all the North American artiodactyls have antlers or horns in one or both sexes. The bison, sheep and goats have true, permanent horns. Both male and female pronghorns have and lose horns each year. The deer family has antlers.

Science News Letter, March 15, 1958