

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **STUDENT BALANCE** ideal for elementary grades is of Dutch manufacture. Made of non-rusting anodized metal, the balance is 14 inches tall and 15 x 8½ inches at the base. Each pan is four and ¾ inches in diameter, large enough for easy handling by young children. Accurate, it can indicate differences in weight up to 10 milligrams and weigh objects up to 500 grams. The balance which comes unassembled takes only five minutes to set up.

• Science News Letter, 84:334 Nov. 23, 1963

⚙️ **MICROBIOLOGICAL KIT** for studying protozoa (one-celled animals) can be used with low-power microscopes. The kit, safe for school or home, contains encysted protozoa, food papers and methyl cellulose to slow the animals down. It is useful to teachers of elementary biology and to students, as well as adults, who like to experiment on their own. The encysted protozoa do not deteriorate with storage. Easy-to-understand instructions are included.

• Science News Letter, 84:334 Nov. 23, 1963

⚙️ **MINIATURIZED ILLUMINATOR** no larger than a cigarette lighter, but more powerful than a two-battery flashlight gives light from two bulbs. The illuminator contains miniature nickel cadmium batteries that never need replacing and can be re-powered an almost unlimited number of times by a power loader, available separately.

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⚙️ **ICE-SKATE SHARPENER**, shown in photograph, made of chrome finished solid steel is pocket-size and ideal for skaters of all ages who like to sharpen their own ice skates. Adjustable to any skate blade, the sharpener gives a sharp "hollow-ground" edge with just a few strokes along the blade. No tools, jigs or holding devices are necessary.

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⚙️ **MINIATURE PHOTOGRAPH STAMPS** will appeal to teen-agers. Glossy photographs are printed on perforated sheets with gummed backs, like postage stamps, from any size photograph, snapshot or negative. The photo stamps can be used to personalize greeting cards, announcements, school campaign fliers, letters or for any other purpose. Two sizes are available: 1 x ¾ inches in sheets of 100 and 1 x 1½ inches in sheets of 50.

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⚙️ **SMALL MERCURY LAMP** developed for outdoor use resembles a household light bulb in size, shape and base. The 100-watt lamp can be used to light walkways, driveways, building entrances and landscapes, either for commercial or residential purposes. Highly efficient and long lasting, the lamp comes in two versions, clear or phosphor-coated. The lamp must be operated only with proper ballast as indicated on the carton.

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⚙️ **TEDDY BEAR RADIO**, an enjoyable companion for the toddler to the teenager, is a cuddly plush teddy bear with a transistor radio inside. A twist of its nose tunes in a favorite station, while a touch of its collar button turns the radio off. Sturdily built, the reddish-brown teddy bear radio is seven inches high and nine inches long.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## New Measles-Polio Vaccine

➤ A NEW measles-polio vaccine was reported by Dr. Joel Warren of Chas. Pfizer & Co., Terre Haute, Ind., and collaborators from other parts of the country in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 186:533, 1963. The vaccine has been used on 133 children ranging in age from a few months to 11 years.

Although the new vaccine has not yet been licensed for use, an editorial in the same issue of the journal said it appears desirable to start immunization at six weeks of life, using the three-in-one diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus injections and the measles-polio-myxelitis vaccines separately.

Collaborating with Dr. Warren were Mary J. Gallian, also of Pfizer, and Drs. Harry A. Feldman, State University of New York, Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse; Domenic Iezzoni, Pfizer department of clinical research, New York; Vincent A. Fulginiti, University of Colorado pediatrics department, Denver; and Thomas Conway, also of Pfizer, Terre Haute.

## Help Seen for Colds

A vaccine containing one type of virus that causes the common cold was reported protecting against this virus (ECHO-28). This virus is only one of at least 30 known viruses classified as rhino-

viruses, a group that accounts for a number of upper respiratory illnesses in children and even more in adults.

A final vaccine must await tests for other rhinoviruses to be sure what virus types should be included to prevent or modify colds. The researchers say, however, that their findings offer encouragement for the ultimate development of an effective vaccine for rhinovirus illness.

The study was reported in *JAMA*, 186:578, 1963, by Dr. Jacob C. Holper of Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, Ill., where the vaccine was prepared with the cooperation of a team from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Bethesda, Md. Drs. Maurice A. Mufson, William M. Ludwig and Robert M. Chanock with Judith A. Rourke, Harvey D. James Jr. and Lloyd W. Gauld made up the Bethesda group.

## Mental Health Support

The nation's new program to fight mental illness and mental retardation has received a pledge of support from the American Medical Association.

A statement by AMA officials says the new program under legislation enacted by the U.S. Congress follows closely the principles first advocated by the AMA in its mental health program announced in the summer of 1962.

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