

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **BITE FLAG**, particularly useful for still fishing or ice fishing, allows a fisherman to relax, read or otherwise occupy himself while waiting for fish to bite. The unit consisting of a 5½-inch flag with a trip lever can be attached to any regular fishing rod and is usable with either bait or spinning reels. When a catch is made the flag springs up.

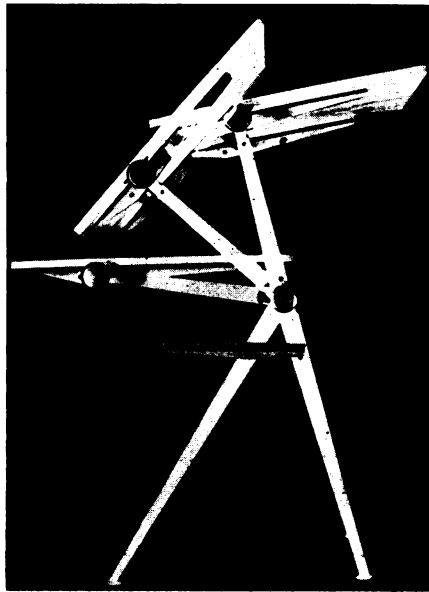
• Science News Letter, 85:352 May 30, 1964

⚙️ **RIVETING KIT** consists of a metal compartmented case containing rivets in three different lengths, back-up plates for soft materials and riveting tool. Useful for home repair and do-it-yourself projects, the rivets can be set from one side of the work and can be used for riveting hollow metal tubing of garden tools or metal lawn furniture. The kit is suitable for fastening metal, leather, plastic or hardboard.

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⚙️ **NEW MEDICINE CABINET**, especially designed for families with small children, helps prevent accidental poisoning. The cabinet, very difficult for children under six to open, is provided with a lock consisting of three buttons, all of which must be pressed at once to open the door. The two outer buttons are placed at an adult's hand-span away from each other, too far apart for a child to manage.

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⚙️ **MULTI-PURPOSE TABLE-DESK**, shown in photograph, for drawing and other uses is made of lightweight metal. Easy to handle, the desk is adjustable up and down and assumes any inclination from horizontal to vertical. A brake mechanism secures the desk in place. The unit comes with a drafting board ¾ of an inch thick and weighs 44 pounds.

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⚙️ **AUTOMATIC VEGETABLE PEELER** saves time for the housewife. Running on water pressure, the unit, which consists of a transparent covered container with abrasive walls, is connected to the water faucet for operation. As the water enters the peeler, the vegetables, such as potatoes, carrots, turnips and parsnips are swirled around and automatically cleaned and peeled. The unit will peel up to two pounds of vegetables a minute.

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⚙️ **AIR MAGNET** for handling miniature and subminiature parts has a vacuum transducer which instantly converts compressed air into a vacuum. Held in the hand like a pencil and equipped with easy fingertip control for making and breaking the vacuum, the instrument allows the operator to pick up and release the tiniest parts quickly and accurately and eliminates rejects caused by scratching or marring.

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⚙️ **LOW-COST MAGNETIC STIRRER** for student and general laboratory use has one-knob control. Completely enclosed in a square aluminum housing, a powerful stirring action adjustable to various speeds is provided by a nine-watt motor and a drive magnet. The stirrer may be obtained assembled or in kit form.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

➤ **WHEN A PERSON** is treated for an open wound he should be injected with tetanus toxoid, regardless of whether he has been immunized previously, doctors are warned.

Every physician should make an effort to immunize all his patients routinely, however, two New York doctors said in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 188:625, 1964.

The possibility of minor injury is always present, they pointed out, and as summer vacation time approaches, tetanus (lockjaw) immunization is advisable regardless of the destination of travel.

Drs. Paul A. Skudder and James R. McCarroll of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center said that the only large groups who have been actively immunized against this often-fatal infectious disease are veterans of the U.S. forces in World War II and those who had shots in childhood.

## Kidney Disease Test

You may have kidney disease and not know it, a team of Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass., physicians warn. They advise a simple screening test for this potentially dangerous condition, which often is undetected until it is too late for treatment.

Drs. Warren E. C. Wacker, Lionel E. Dorfman and Elias Amador explained in *JAMA*, 188:671, 1964, that a urine test can determine the telltale sign of kidney disease, which is increased activity of the enzyme, lactic dehydrogenase (LDH).

They say that even the most common kidney disease, chronic pyelonephritis, is undetected in 75% to 80% of cases.

## Two Viruses Clash

A clash of two viruses was discovered when a seven-year-old boy contracted measles a week after he got chickenpox. The measles rash did not break out in areas around the crusted healing blisters of the original disease, which suggested to researchers that interferon had stopped the rash.

Interferon is a substance produced by a cell when it is infected by a virus that provides resistance to viruses in general. Further studies were advised to decide whether the severity of one disease had been modified by the other.

Drs. Vernon Knight, William E. Fleet and David J. Lang of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., reported the case in *JAMA*, 188:690, 1964.

## Blood Clot Treatment

The enzyme fibrinolysin, obtained from human blood, is valuable in treating blood clots in the lung unless patients are critically ill at the time of treatment, four Philadelphia doctors reported in *JAMA*, 188:628, 1964.

Drs. Harold L. Israel, George R. Fisher, Otto Mueller and David A. Cooper of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine said several cases of serum hepatitis had developed in patients taking fibrinolysin, but when this hazard is eliminated the remedy should be safe.

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