

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1279 for sources of new things described. Send a self-addressed envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **PURSE LIGHT** for the inside of a woman's handbag attaches to almost any purse with a tarnish-proof clasp and eliminates groping in the dark for keys or other items. Powered by a midget silver oxide hearing aid battery that is replaceable, the device lights up at a touch of the finger. It can easily be removed from the purse and used for other purposes. The light comes in five colors.

• Science News Letter, 86:400 December 19, 1964

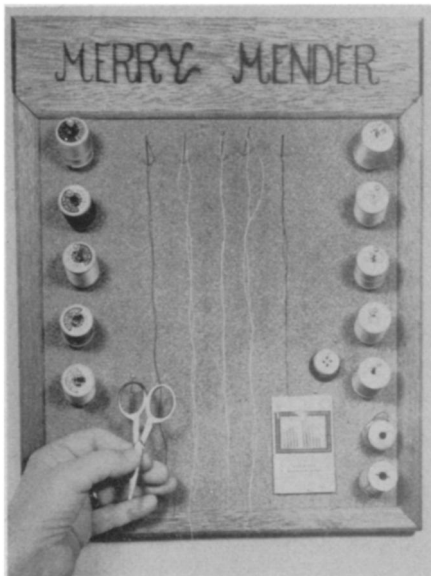
☛ **AUTOMOBILE PAD**, suitable for use in trucks, buses, planes or private cars, provides "bucket seat" comfort to both driver and passenger. Molded of polypropylene plastic and available in several colors, the sturdy lightweight pad cradles the lower back, shielding it from shocks and jolts. Placed on the regular car seat like a cushion, it is held in place by body weight.

• Science News Letter, 86:400 December 19, 1964

☛ **REEL POUCH** made of tough brown leather-like plastic protects the fisherman's reel from grit and water. Suitable for freshwater or saltwater reels, the pouch has a thick crepe-rubber lining which helps prevent damage to the reel if dropped. The pouch has an all-around zipper opening making access easy and is also roomy enough for additional small items.

• Science News Letter, 86:400 December 19, 1964

☛ **PORTABLE MENDING AID**, shown in photograph, is handy for keeping mending



and sewing needs such as thread, needles and scissors at one's fingertips. A thick cork board framed with hand-rubbed mahogany, it can be placed beside the ironing board or mounted on the wall near the sewing machine. Sturdy hat-pins for securing the various items, and a set of needles are included with the sewing aid. The frame may be personalized at extra charge by omitting the words "Merry Mender."

• Science News Letter, 86:400 December 19, 1964

☛ **POCKET REFRACTOMETER**, six and one-fourth inches long, for measuring amounts of solids in liquid solutions, has a direct percentage reading scale. It is designed for food and beverage processors and paper and textile manufacturers. Analysis of a substance is made by simply placing a few drops of the liquid to be tested on the device, focusing it toward a light, and then reading the percentages indicated on the scale.

• Science News Letter, 86:400 December 19, 1964

☛ **KITCHEN-SIZE STILL**, made of aluminum, converts any kind of water including seawater into pure sterilized drinking water. Suitable for use in the home as well as for industrial and chemical research laboratories and classroom study, the still condenses about two quarts of water an hour. All left-over residue can be easily washed out so that no chemicals remain to contaminate further operations.

• Science News Letter, 86:400 December 19, 1964

☛ **BOAT LIGHTING SYSTEM** is a new transistorized circuit that overcomes problems of operating fluorescent lamps in boats on battery power. The transistorized device changes direct current from the battery into high-frequency alternating current, thus providing economically ample power for fluorescent lighting without excessive drain on the battery. The low-cost system weighs only four ounces.

• Science News Letter, 86:400 December 19, 1964

• Doctors Are Reading •

Thalidomide Produces Deformities in Monkeys

► **THALIDOMIDE**, the tranquilizer that caused thousands of deformities among European babies whose mothers used the drug, produced the same reaction in pregnant monkeys.

The search for reasons behind the thalidomide tragedy continues with various animals in the laboratory. The rabbit and the mouse have been found to produce fetal abnormalities after receiving thalidomide and now the monkey, which is closer to humans, also has reacted by producing monsters.

Drs. C. S. Delahunt and L. J. Lassen of the pharmacology department of Chas. Pfizer and Co., Groton, Conn., discovered malformations in fetuses of experimental monkeys that were identical to those found in children. Their research was reported in *Science*, 146:1300, 1964.

Giving Up Cigarettes Related to Mouth Sores

Quitting cigarettes can lead to mouth sores in rare cases.

Three case histories have been reported of persons who developed lesions on their lips and in their mouths and throats after cutting down or giving up cigarettes. Each of the persons studied had smoked cigarettes for years.

Two of the three persons resumed cigarette smoking after the sores appeared. Within a week after starting smoking again, the lesions disappeared in both cases.

Dr. Clete Dorsey of Pasadena, Calif., reported the case histories in *California Medicine*, 101:377, 1964.

Flu Vaccine Successful

During an influenza outbreak in a children's home in North Carolina, children who had previously received a multiple strain flu vaccine had "significantly" less illness than those who had not been immunized.

Half of the children got vaccine containing the four virus strains, A, A-1, A-2 and B. The others were not vaccinated. Fifty percent of the non-immunized children were ill, while only 34% of the vaccinated children got flu. Reporting the study in *JAMA*, 190:806, 1964, were Drs. Hugh L. Moffett, Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, and Henry G. Cramblett, Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio, with Jacqueline Dobbins, Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N. C.

Ulcer Patients Get Cholesterol Lowered

The high animal fat of the Sippy diet for ulcers can be replaced by a palatable corn oil-antacid dietary supplement called Ratio, which lowers the cholesterol level, says the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, 12:1138, 1964.

Dr. Irwin B. Moore of the Euclid Clinic Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio, advises Ratio because fats are suspected of clogging the arteries and causing heart attacks.

• Science News Letter, 86:400 December 19, 1964