

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **AUTOMOBILE BATTERY CHARGER** helps keep batteries fully charged during cold winter weather and also when the car is left unused for long periods. The charger is plugged into a household outlet and its cord is inserted into the cigarette lighter receptacle of the car to provide continuous charging for the desired length of time unattended. A transformer within the sealed charger plug keeps the current at a safe low level.

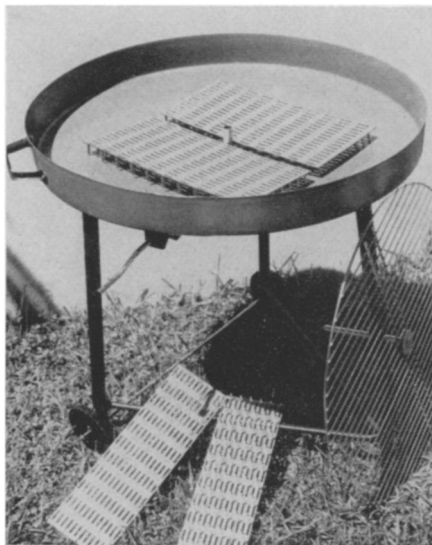
• Science News Letter, 87:160 March 6, 1965

⊗ **NON-STICK COATING** sprayed from an aerosol can on any metal kitchen utensil creates a non-stick no-scour surface. The coating is sprayed on a clean fry pan, pot, ice cube tray or muffin tin and then heated in the oven to produce a surface that can be washed with soapy water. The spray can be used also to repair accidentally scratched Teflon coated cookware. A coating especially for use on ovens is also available.

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⊗ **RETRACTABLE UTILITY KNIFE**, suitable for scoring wall board and sheet rock, cutting rope, wire, cardboard, asphalt tile, wallpaper and linoleum, is useful to the homeowner or handyman. The blade locks in four positions: for deep cutting, light cutting, carton scoring and opening, and when closed. The retracting action will not jam, stiffen or rust and its aluminum handle is unbreakable.

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⊗ **BARBECUE GRATE**, shown in photograph, made of galvanized steel, protects the bottom of the barbecue bowl, lengthening life of the equipment. The grate, which fits in the base of the barbecue equipment, raises the fire level, thus allowing circulation of air under the coals and more efficient burning of the charcoal. Fire starting is made easier, eliminating long waiting periods, and a hotter cooking fire is produced at the same time.

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⊗ **PORTABLE SPRING SCALES** for laboratory, school, home or industry show weights in both ounces and grams. Models are available in both the traditional linear and the new round dial styles. The clearly marked scales, individually calibrated for accuracy, are resistant to rugged use by student or mechanic. Easy to handle, they have a holding loop contoured to fit the finger and a large open hook for holding objects.

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⊗ **PHOTOELECTRIC LIGHT SWITCH** turns house lamp on automatically at dusk and off at dawn while occupants are away. Useful as a protection against intruders, the switch is placed on a window sill concealed behind curtains and facing outside. To install, the cord of the device is plugged into any standard outlet and the lamp cord is plugged into the switch. A six-foot cord is included.

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⊗ **FLAMELESS ELECTRIC TORCH** for shop, laboratory or production duty provides hot air temperatures of 160 degrees Fahrenheit at room temperature. A flick of a switch turns on the torch, which operates on 115-volt AC or DC. Portable, it is useful wherever warm, dry air is needed, including drying out boots, work clothing, tools, equipment and delicate components of instruments.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Breathing Distress Kills Newborn

► APPROXIMATELY 30,000 NEWBORN babies die each year from hyaline-membrane disease.

In spite of occasional high oxygen pressure treatment in a hyperbaric chamber, such babies continue to die at the same rate, a team of physicians from Harvard Medical School, Boston, reported.

They placed eight babies with low oxygen supply in high oxygen pressure at the Boston Lying-in Hospital, but all of them died. In six of the babies, hyaline membranes were found at autopsy, and all eight showed severe lung collapse.

Drs. William D. Cochran, Henry Levison, Donald M. Muirhead Jr., R. Wesley Boston, Catherine C. S. Wang and Clement A. Smith reported the detailed study in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 272:347, 1965.

Open-Kidney Operation Successful

Embedded kidney stones can be removed without a patient losing his kidney, and suspected kidney cancer can be proved or disproved in an open-kidney surgery perfected by Dr. Roger Baker of Georgetown University, Washington, D. C.

Dr. Baker has removed kidney stones from 32 patients who would have lost the entire organ because the stones were not reachable through the renal pelvis.

A report on the new procedure in *Medical World News* 6:25,

1965, said Dr. Baker has modified surgical procedure long considered too risky to perform, making it safe, simple and successful.

Dr. Baker developed ways to ligate all blood vessels, even small ones, as the kidney is being closed. In addition, he devised new ways to make sure the crevices of the kidney are properly closed as the split halves are rejoined. This assures proper functioning and the restoration of compression inside the organ.

Gamma Globulin Prevents Hepatitis

Until an effective vaccine is perfected, most persons who are in contact with infectious hepatitis can be immunized by inoculations with gamma globulin, a fraction of blood plasma rich in antibodies.

A study of 340 household contacts who received injections of immune serum globulin in Seattle-King County, Wash., showed 87% of the injections were successful.

If proper doses are given within one week of actual exposure, success should approach 100%, Dr. Donald R. Peterson of the Seattle-King County Department of Health and the University of Washington said. Assisting him in the study was H. Baker Noble, a student at Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest College, Winston-Salem, N.C. The American National Red Cross donated commercially produced gamma globulin to the Department of Health while drug firms gave it to private physicians. This study was described in *Public Health Reports*, 80:173, 1965.

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