

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **ELEVEN-PIECE TOOL KIT** contains a collection of small-sized tools capable of handling almost any repair job. Useful for home, car, boat or camping, the tools, made of tempered chrome-plated steel, are contained in a convenient zippered case. Included are a crescent wrench, hex-head side cutters, thin-nose pliers and a special pocket knife that serves as a handle for the hammer, saw, gimlet, awl, screwdriver, file and chisel.

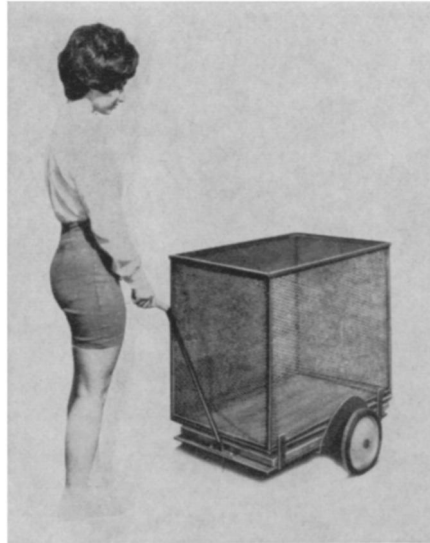
• Science News Letter, 87:288 May 1, 1965

⊗ **SOIL TESTING TAPE** that tells in seconds the exact degree of acidity or alkalinity of a soil will help the home gardener choose the flowers and vegetables most suited for a soil or modify the soil to suit the plants desired. To find the degree of acidity, a pinch of moist soil is placed in contact with an inch of the tape. The color change in the tape is matched against the included color chart.

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⊗ **NIGHT SENTRY** is an electronic device that allows a person returning home at night to leave the headlights of his car on to light the way to his door after the car is parked and the ignition turned off. The device, easily installed in any car, is controlled by a pushbutton mounted under the dashboard. It turns the light off automatically after about one minute.

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⊗ **GARDEN LEAF BURNER** on wheels, shown in photograph, doubles as a yard wagon. It can be rolled from place to place to collect leaves and then placed in a desired place for burning the leaves. A removable pan makes disposing of the ashes simple and prevents the grass under the cart from scorching. The mesh sides may be removed to provide a dolly for carrying heavy materials such as logs or fertilizer.

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⊗ **BARREL STAVE SKIS** provide fun for skiers of all levels of ability. The skis, less than three feet long, are easy to maneuver, allowing even the beginner to ski parallel, wedel back and forth, and spin. Because the skis, made of oak staves are curved upward, only about 20% of their length touches the ground, thus reducing friction and facilitating turns. Two models are available.

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⊗ **GOLF BALL CHECKER** that can be carried in the golf bag allows the player to keep continuous tab on the quality of his ball while playing. The grade of the ball, whether hard, medium or soft, can be tested by squeezing the hand-operated hydraulic instrument and read directly from a dial. The device also checks the roundness of the ball, thus helping a player to improve his game.

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⊗ **COFFEE DISPENSER** snaps directly to the top of a one-pound coffee can and dispenses one tablespoonful of coffee with each pull of a release knob, thus helping to prevent spills and eliminating the need for a measuring spoon. Made of durable high-impact plastic, the device is available in five colors. It is reusable and can be easily transferred from can to can.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Gamma Globulin Blamed for Transplant Failure

► **THE BODY** is suspected of rejecting transplants and skin grafts because of a specific gamma globulin discovered in the small white blood cells at the site of the graft.

Gamma globulin, a blood plasma fraction rich in antibodies, has long been suspected as a cause of the graft rejection phenomenon, but up to now it has only been seen in the blood in free form.

Dr. John S. Najarian of the University of California Hospitals, San Francisco, and Dr. Joseph D. Feldman of the Scripps Clinic, La Jolla, Calif., who found the specific gamma globulin, injected it into animals with kidney transplants.

They reported in *Medical World News*, 6:54, 1965, that the injected substance seemed to accelerate activity against the transplant. Mice injected with this gamma globulin also rejected skin grafts more quickly than those that had not been injected.

"Transplantation antibody" is the tentative label the California researchers gave their gamma globulin, but they are conducting further tests to prove it is an antibody especially active against transplanted tissues.

The researchers believe that the findings of their preliminary studies may apply to all types of grafts and transplants.

## Venereal Disease Rises Among Children

Gonorrhea, the most common venereal disease, is now on the increase among children under 15 years of age.

The occurrence of gonorrhea among children between 10 and

14 years old has been increasing constantly in Los Angeles since 1960, and this situation is occurring in many other cities, a study in *Public Health Reports* 80:347, 1965, revealed.

Dr. Geraldine Branch and Mrs. Ruth Paxton, R.N., both with the Los Angeles County Health Department, studied 180 infected children from 28 days to 14 years old.

Prevention of gonococcal infections during childhood should be aimed primarily at parent education, the researchers concluded. The parents should be taught how to handle infants and young children.

## Child Recovers From Poisoning

The valuable anti-depression drug imipramine, or Tofranil, can be fatal to children and produce serious side effects in others who take too much, the *British Medical Journal*, April 10, 1965, stated.

Treatment by diuresis, or increased kidney production, probably saved the life of a 23-month-old boy who had accidentally taken between 600 and 650 milligrams of the drug.

Researchers at Epsom District Hospital, southwest of London, where the child was treated, said that as little as 75 to 100 milligrams of imipramine can produce severe symptoms in a child, and 350 milligrams can cause death in a baby a year and a half old.

In spite of the state of coma and later epileptic seizure of the Epsom patient, he recovered within 48 hours.

Drs. B. J. Prout, J. Young and P. Goddard, who reported the findings, said there is no antidote for imipramine poisoning.

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