

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **PORTABLE BURGLAR ALARM** can be placed on window sill, behind doors, in closets, drawers, in automobile and other places where protection is desired. Operating on standard flashlight batteries, the alarm requires no installation or wiring. When bumped or tilted by an intruder opening a door or tampering with a car, the alarm sets off a loud continuous siren.

• Science News Letter, 87:352 May 29, 1965

☛ **WAFFLE DOG GRILL** makes a tasty treat in minutes for both young and old. Made like a waffle iron, the grill opens flat and has grooves shaped like hot dog rolls for making two "waffle dogs," weiners encased in crust of waffle dough, at a time. The aluminum alloy unit can be used on gas or electric burners, or on a charcoal grill.

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☛ **VOICE-ACTUATING DEVICE** converts any tape recorder into an automatic voice-actuated system, eliminating the need to bother with on-and-off switching during use. When the device is installed, the sound of a person's voice will start the tape recorder into action, and when the person stops speaking, the recorder also stops. The unit is provided with a pause adjustment to suit the person's speaking habits, preventing frequent shut-offs during continuous recording sessions.

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☛ **SYRINGE FILTER HOLDER**, shown in photograph, for membrane filters, fits any standard syringe. Suitable for use in filtering small volumes of liquids, the filter holder is made with autoclavable plastic and a stainless steel filter support screen. Attached to any wash bottle it provides membrane-filtered particle-free water. The holder is also useful for in-line filtering of air.

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☛ **RADIATION DETECTOR** is a round self-adhesive label ½-inch in diameter that helps identify materials exposed to radiation. The label, designed primarily to respond to gamma radiation from cobalt 60 and electron beam radiation, changes from yellow to red on exposure to radiation. It is useful for labeling items in medical, pharmaceutical and food fields where radiation sterilization is used.

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☛ **BICYCLE WINDSHIELD** can be adjusted to fit bicycles, tricycles and regular motorbikes. The windshield comes with especially designed chrome-finished brackets that are easily attached to the handle bar. The windshield, made of heavy plastic, can be curved and cut to fit the bicycle. Included is ¾-inch chrome colored stripping as trim for top and bottom of the windshield.

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☛ **GARMENT MONITOR** for checking clean room frocks and smocks is economically designed with two 47-mm filter holders. The filter holder opens or closes with only a ¼-turn, thus lessening the chance of contaminating the air with metal particles. Its pre-filter, which keeps out airborne particles, pops in or out of the holder and no tools are required to change the filters.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Old Antibiotic Causes Kidney Illness

► **THE NEXT TIME** your doctor offers you a drug sample, ask him how old it is.

The 22-year-old sister-in-law of a physician was hospitalized at the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center, New York, after being given the antibiotic tetracycline which was part of an old sample supply that had been kept in her brother-in-law's desk for at least six months.

The 26-year-old wife of another physician became ill after taking tetracycline from a supply that had been kept in her bathroom cabinet for at least a year. She also was hospitalized.

Kidney trouble and other ailments plagued these women for seven months to a year, a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* 272:986, 1965, revealed.

Drs. Milford Fulop and Arnold Drapkin, both of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York, say that at least two of six other patients who became ill after taking tetracycline were physicians' relatives.

Research reported last year found that "several degradation products" of tetracycline may form under the influence of heat, moisture and low acidity.

Brewer's Yeast Tames Staphylococcus

The threat of blood poisoning from stubborn staphylococcus germs that resist treatment by antibiotics has been lessened by the addition of a brewer's yeast fraction in laboratory experiments.

Dr. I. A. Parfentjev of the Institute of Applied Biology, New York, told Science Service that after contact with the brewer's yeast fraction, the resistant staph became altered so that susceptibility to standard antibiotics was increased as much as 50 times in some cases.

Assisting Dr. Parfentjev in the research were Mrs. Anna R. Catelli, now in New York, and Dr. R. N. Arch, at Yale. Details of the study appeared in the recently published "Proceedings of the Third International Congress of Chemotherapy." The Congress was held at Stuttgart, Germany.

Farmer's Lung Disease Widespread

Farmer's Lung is widespread throughout the central part of the United States and Canada, according to a research report.

The disease is caused by inhalation of "dust" from moldy hay or forage. It can be fatal in its later stages because of pulmonary insufficiency. Symptoms of chills, coughing, fever and labored breathing frequently follow a wet summer season. The disorder was found to be fairly common among dairy workers in the agricultural states from the east coast of the U.S. westward to Iowa and north to Manitoba, Canada.

Dr. James R. Wilson of Winnetka, Ill., reported a comprehensive study by the 16 clinics composing the American Association of Medical Clinics, in *Group Practice*, May 1965, the association's official journal.

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