

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **SANDWICH GRILL** that fits into a pop-up toaster is convenient for making grilled cheese and other toasted sandwiches quickly and easily. The unit, made of heavy gauge aluminum woven in a waffle weave for even heat distribution, encloses the sandwich and slips neatly into the toaster.

• Science News Letter, 87:384 June 12, 1965

☛ **AUTO SEAT** of molded plastic is designed to provide individual "bucket seat" comfort for both automobile driver and passengers. The sturdy lightweight device cradles the lower back and helps reduce driver fatigue, and protects the body against shocks and jolts. The seat, available in several colors, is held in position by the body weight.

• Science News Letter, 87:384 June 12, 1965

☛ **HOME BATTERY CHARGER** for recharging all types of dry cell batteries in all common sizes, includes a built-in adapter for charging 9-volt transistor batteries and a new timer-reminder dial. Capable of handling one to four batteries at a time, it will recharge batteries from 15 to 50 times depending upon their type and condition. A battery tester is included with the unit.

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☛ **FOLDING TOT COT**, shown in photograph, is handy for traveling, camping or in the home. It folds to 2x6x26 inches in



size and is easily stored. Made with an aluminum frame and washable canvas cover, the cot when open is 50 inches long by 26 inches wide and only 6 inches high, making it safe for the youngest child. The lightweight cot will also support grownups.

• Science News Letter, 87:384 June 12, 1965

☛ **COMPASS CUTTER** for cutting exceptionally large diameter holes in metal plate, plastic or thick wood attaches to any electric drill. Its hardened tool steel bit has

a special side-cutting action to make holes and circles from 1½ to 20 inches in diameter in one revolution. Useful to hobbyists as well as industry, the bit can cut through wood two inches thick and cold-rolled steel ⅛-inch thick.

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☛ **MIRROR GRINDING KIT** provides a means of obtaining an inexpensive mirror for those who wish to make their own reflecting telescope. A six-inch Pyrex mirror blank and all materials necessary for hand-grinding the mirror, including magnifying lens, are contained in the kit. A mirror surface accurate to within a millionth of an inch can be achieved with care. "Homebuilt Telescopes" by Brown, available separately, is recommended as a companion to the kit.

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☛ **POCKET-SIZED PSYCHROMETER** in a convenient carrying case for accurately measuring relative humidity anywhere, in home, office or outdoors, contains two matched five-inch thermometers with a range of 20 degrees to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The psychrometer is whirled by its handle to obtain readings of wet and dry bulb temperatures. By checking the humidity tables supplied with each instrument, the relative humidity can be quickly determined.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Overdoses to Child Often Given by Parent

► **PARENTS** are too frequently guilty of giving infants and young children overdoses of aspirin tablets, a Utah physician warns. Although children sometimes swallow aspirin accidentally, many parents are not aware of the difference in aspirin sizes and will give their infant the children's (1¼ grain) or even adults' (5 grain) dose instead of baby aspirin (½ grain).

This disregard of proper aspirin dosage, by either a parent's neglect or a youngster's accident, is one of the most important causes of accidental poisoning in children, Dr. Alan K. Done of the department of pediatrics, University of Utah College of Medicine, Salt Lake City, reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 192:770, 1965.

An overdose of aspirin can cause a child to have unusually deep breathing, vomit, or seem lethargic and confused.

Dr. Done cautions parents not to leave "such a potentially toxic material out of their sight, even for an instant, until it has been returned to safe storage."

Migrant Negro Is Most Malnourished

The migrant Negro worker population may have the highest proportion of malnourished individuals of any group in the United States.

With diets such as flour, grits and breads, sometimes supplemented with beans, pig's tails, pig's feet and ears, neck bones,

chicken and fish, the Negro migrant succumbs to scurvy, rickets, and even Kwashiorkor, the advanced state of malnutrition, reported Dr. Jean Mayer, department of nutrition, Harvard University School of Public Health, Boston.

Negro adults drink very little milk, and infants are fed milk exclusively well beyond the age at which solid foods should be fed, Dr. Mayer reported in an article on the nutritional status of American Negroes in *Nutrition Reviews*, June 1965.

In the land considered the best fed country on earth, it is easily forgotten that millions of our fellow citizens are poor, ignorant and ill fed, Dr. Mayer stated.

Birth Control Pills Cause Liver Damage

Birth control pills can damage liver function in small numbers of women, but this does not justify restricting their use.

These conclusions are reported in an editorial in the *British Medical Journal* May 29, 1965. One of three scientific reports on liver function and oral contraceptives in the same issue of the *Journal* by Drs. G.I.M. Swyer and Valerie Little of the University College Hospital, London, supports the editorial's conclusion.

The other two reports are by Dr. Ulf Larsson-Cohn of Uppsala, Sweden, and Drs. A. Eisalo, P. A. Jarvinen and T. Luukkainen of Helsinki, Finland. They found disturbed liver function among 4% to 48% of the women studied.

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