

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **OUTDOOR ACCENT LIGHTS** designed for wide outdoor use are suitable for all types of weather, all the year around. Useful for Christmas lighting, as well as for highlighting yard and garden, they can also provide illumination for steps and driveways, discouraging prowlers. The portable set includes a transformer to convert household power, automatic timer, 100 feet of weatherproof cable, six sealed beam lamps and ground stakes.

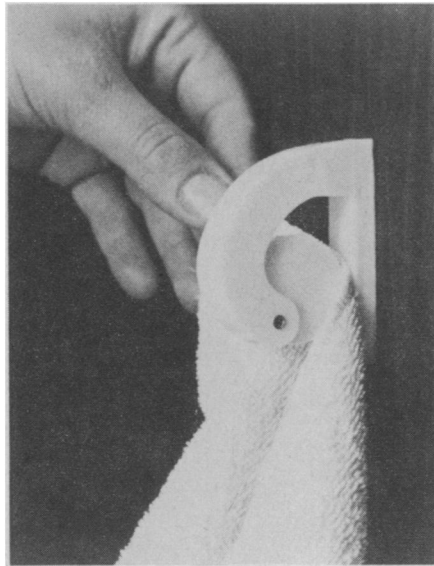
• Science News Letter, 88:256 October 16, 1965

⚙️ **RUBY LASER RODS** made of the same chromium concentration and crystallographic orientation as those most commonly used in research laboratories are suitable for classroom use. Costing less than earlier models, the small rods perform all of the functions of the most sophisticated rods, although with less precision. The laser rods come with complete instructions for assembling the necessary parts for firing the laser beam.

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⚙️ **RULER FOR CHEMISTS** and chemistry students is used as both a ruler and template for quick diagramming of the energy level of electrons in atoms. The edge of the pocket-size plastic ruler is used to plot the distance of various energy levels from the nucleus and punched out circles on the ruler are used to draw the orbitals. By this means the behavior of a particular element can be predicted. Instructions are included.

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⚙️ **UNIVERSAL HOLDER**, shown in photograph, for hanging towels, clothing or notes is a small durable plastic device with a freely moving wheel. The holder, which has a self-sticking back, can be mounted on any convenient spot on wall or any other desired place, such as on the back of a TV set to hold the electrical cord. The item, simply rolled under its grooved wheel while securely held, can be easily released with one hand.

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⚙️ **ALL-PURPOSE SOLID FUEL** handy for outdoor cooking is nontoxic, nonexplosive and can be stored indefinitely. Easy to light with match or cigarette lighter, the fuel stick can also be used as a starter for barbecue fires. It is small and lightweight and a two-hour supply will fit in pocket or purse. The lighter throws no sparks as it burns and will burn even after being submerged in water for days.

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⚙️ **HOME FIRE ALARM** that has unlimited shelf-life forms its own wet cell battery to provide the electric current for the alarm. The unit, about the size of a standard wall thermostat, requires no electrical cords or wires and is completely self-contained. Hung on a wall near the ceiling, it provides constant warning protection. When exposed to a temperature of 136 degrees F. the alarm will sound for at least 15 minutes.

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⚙️ **ELECTRIC FOOT WARMERS** that fit inside any shoes eliminate the need for bulky socks on cold winter days for hunters, fishermen, sports spectators or outdoor workers. Safe to use, the warmers consist of flexible soles containing heating filaments that operate on two standard six-volt flashlight batteries. Connecting wires lead from the batteries, placed in a case attached to the waist, down through the trouser legs to the warmers.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Faster Test Found for German Measles

➤ A NEW DIAGNOSTIC test for the German measles virus, called the "hemadsorption-negative plaque test," cuts by two-thirds the usual time for virus identification and simplifies the method so that any laboratory equipped for virus procedures can use it.

Drs. Philip I. Marcus and David H. Carver, both of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, reported the test in *Medical World News*, Oct. 1, 1965.

To test for the presence of the virus, the doctors inoculate laboratory culture plates with the suspected German measles virus. After incubation, the plates are further inoculated with the virus that causes Newcastle disease. This virus causes production of hemagglutinin in all cells it infects except those previously infected by the German measles virus.

After another period of incubation, those cells infected by the German measles virus stand out as isolated islands surrounded by Newcastle virus-infected cells that are covered with red blood cells.

## Phenol Relieves Rigidity of Taut Muscles

A new method of relieving rigidity of taut muscles, a major obstacle to the rehabilitation of some patients with strokes, cerebral palsy and multiple sclerosis, was reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 193:31, 1965, by three investigators

from Stanford University School of Medicine, Dr. Daniel Feldman, associate professor of medicine in rehabilitation, Dr. Jordan Katz, assistant professor of anesthesia, and Dr. Leslie Knott, assistant professor of medicine in rehabilitation.

The new technique involves the treatment of taut muscles through injection of phenol, a common drug, into nerves and nerve roots. In clinical trials, immediate relief of rigidity of 50% or more occurred in 31 of 56 nerve injections. The researchers said, however, that lack of uniform action and relatively short periods of relief of rigidity were major problems with phenol therapy.

## Level of Blood Factor Indicates Cancer

The blood level of antiurease is five times higher in stomach cancer patients than in patients with stomach ulcers.

A diagnostic test for stomach cancer is based on the determination of the level of this blood factor in patients. It is being investigated by Dr. Ferenc S. Freisinger of the Royal Free Hospital medical school in London who reported his study in *Medical World News*, Oct. 1, 1965.

He said the antiurease factor inhibits the normal protective function of a stomach enzyme that prevents the build-up of stomach acid. This enzyme, urease, normally breaks down urea compounds in the stomach, releasing the ammonia that neutralizes stomach acid.

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