

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **CHART OF ELEMENTS** contains chemical elements arranged horizontally by their atomic numbers, and vertically according to the "electron shell" their electrons occupy within the atom. Called the "Electron Configuration of the Elements," the chart is available as a 54- x 42-inch wall chart or in notebook size. Useful in elementary chemistry classes, an instruction manual comes with the wall size chart.

• Science News Letter, 88:304 November 6, 1965

⚙️ **SPRING CLIPS** for industrial and commercial applications are made of zinc coated spring steel covered with either vinyl or golden dichromate. The vinyl clip is suitable for mounting easily scratched samples to a display board or for securing cables, while the golden dichromate clip is useful for mounting tools in environments requiring a durable finish. Both are available in a variety of sizes.

• Science News Letter, 88:304 November 6, 1965

⚙️ **MAGNETO GENERATOR** that is compact and portable is suitable for classroom demonstrations of a variety of experiments on electricity. Mounted on a wooden base, the hand-operated generator consists of a two-pole armature which revolves between two powerful magnets. When cranked, voltages between 75 and 100 are produced depending on the speed of revolution.

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⚙️ **REVOLVING SPICE RACK**, shown in photograph, can be mounted under any shelf, wood, glass or metal, or on the underside of a cupboard and keeps spices within convenient reach. Made of sturdy plastic, it has 10 compartments and will hold as many as 30 small spice or extract bottles. A touch of the finger turns the rack to the desired item.

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⚙️ **PURSE CADDY** keeps a woman's purse out of the way at lunch counter, soda fountain or booth, yet readily accessible. The caddy which adheres firmly to any smooth surface holds the purse suspended from a chain over the edge of table or counter. The unit, which clings to any smooth vertical or horizontal surface is also useful in boat or automobile. It comes in a miniature gold-colored case.

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⚙️ **HIGHWAY EMERGENCY KIT** contains a pressurized container that seals a puncture while it inflates the tire, a flashlight, an SOS flag that glows and slips on the radio antenna, first aid kit, first aid card, fire extinguisher and a magnetic flasher that can be mounted on the outside of the car to flash distress signals. Useful to all motorists, it comes in a wood-grained box or leather-like luggage case.

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⚙️ **MENDING KIT** enables a person to make invisible repairs of moth and burn holes, rips, tears and threadbare areas in garments, slip covers or rugs. No reweaving is required. The matching material, obtained from seams, cuffs or extra material if available, is cut to perfect-sized patch by a cutting tool and secured in place with mending tape, both contained in the kit. Full instructions are included.

• Science News Letter, 88:304 November 6, 1965

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Blood Clot in Lung Often Fatal

► **WITH EVIDENCE** piling up to show that pulmonary embolism, or blood clot in the lung, is the single most common cause of death, especially for hospitalized persons, the method of treatment remains controversial.

Dr. Duncan P. Thomas of Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, says that the great majority of patients suffering from massive pulmonary embolism either will die before any therapy can be administered or will respond to prompt and vigorous medical therapy.

Venous ligation, or tying off of a blood vessel, "has a definite place in the therapy of pulmonary embolic disease," Dr. Thomas says in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 273:885, 1965. "However, there is general agreement that in the patients in whom a contraindication to anticoagulant therapy exists, or in whom pulmonary emboli are occurring in the face of adequate anticoagulant therapy, vena-cava ligation is the treatment of choice."

## Liver Cirrhosis, Color Blindness Linked

Exciting evidence for a strong link between color blindness, a sex-linked genetic characteristic, and cirrhosis of the liver, commonly associated with alcoholism, was reported in *The Lancet*, 1:1131, 1965.

*Nutrition Reviews*, 23:293, 1965, reporting this and other studies on this possible genetic association, says that the conclusion could be challenged, but that the association of a clearly defined, easily measured genetic characteristic with a common disease "could be

a powerful tool in helping to unravel the fundamental biochemical pathways and the possible genetic basis of that disease."

## Faster Test Spots Mononucleosis

A rapid, accurate method of detecting infectious mononucleosis using the blood cells of horses has been developed in Princeton, N.J.

The new test, which cuts the time required for diagnosis from hours to minutes, is 98.5% accurate and can be conducted in the doctor's office.

Dr. Stanley Bauer of Princeton Hospital and Miss Gail Hoff, a doctoral candidate at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N.J., developed the method by testing blood cells from several different animals.

The mononucleosis test now most widely used is one involving the tendency of sheep red blood cells to clump together when joined with serum from a patient infected with mononucleosis.

However, results have been wrongly positive, in an estimated 10% to 15% of cases, creating a serious problem because mononucleosis can be confused with such serious diseases as acute leukemia, hepatitis, and forms of meningitis and encephalitis.

Dr. Bauer and Miss Hoff evolved a method of stabilizing horse cells to be furnished in a kit, so the test could be made in a doctor's office instead of a hospital.

The new test was reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* 194:351, 1965.

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