

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☼ **FLOWER NIGHT LIGHT** for bathroom, hall or nursery is decorative as well as useful. The plug-in light is handmade of plastic and simulates a camelia blossom. Available in pink, yellow, blue or green, the three-inch bud opens to a full blown seven inches.

• Science News Letter, 88:416 December 25, 1965

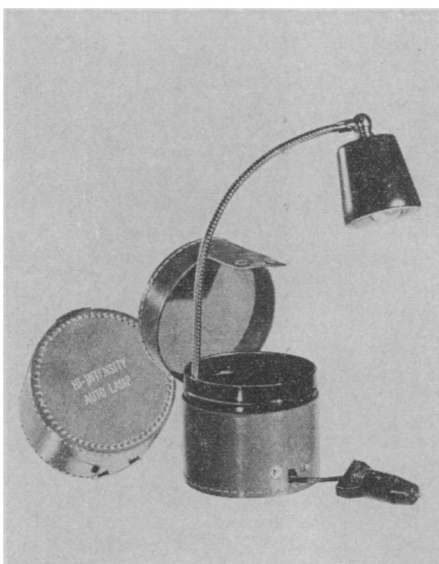
☼ **LAWN MOWER BLADE** is an "S"-shaped rotary blade designed for greater safety for home lawn mowers. The blade sweeps small objects gently from its path and does not impel them into the air with possible injury to bystanders or other damage. Useful for both soft and heavier grasses, the S-blade minimizes vibration and avoids tangling materials such as wires about the blade.

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☼ **INFANT RECLINER** molded of strong plastic upholstered in yellow vinyl foam cushioning is shaped like a chair without legs. A soft vinyl bar and side cushioning around the head pillow give protection to the child. Completely portable, it has side grips for easy carrying. A back support adjusts the recliner to eight positions providing different angles for the baby as needed.

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☼ **AUTO LAMP**, shown in photograph, that plugs into the auto cigarette lighter



socket provides a high-intensity light for reading, spotlight or signal light. Its flexible gooseneck cable allows pointing the lamp in any direction. Provided with a long retractable cord, the lamp can be used inside or outside the car. The whole unit, cord, lamp and shade fits into a luggage-type case that also serves as the lamp base.

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☼ **UNIVERSAL CAMPING TOOL** can be used as a hatchet, hammer, spade, screwdriver, saw, chisel, nail puller or bottle opener. The parts of the tool, all made of hardened tool steel are inserted into the sturdy 15-inch handle for use. A built-in push-button mechanism makes tool changes quick and easy. A leather sheath protects the cutting edges for safe carrying.

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☼ **CORDLESS DRILL** for tiny, exacting work on miniatures, model cars and jewelry is useful to hobbyists and homemakers. The drill which can be used on wood, metal, plastic, leather or sea shells is also handy as a tool for delicate repairs around the house. The unit runs on two standard C flashlight batteries (not included) and comes with two drill bits, a sanding drum and deburring tool.

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☼ **UNIVERSAL LAMP** has a "C" clamp base that can be attached anywhere with no danger of falling or sliding even on inclined surfaces or vibrating machinery. Its 18-inch flexible arm eliminates interference with working area and a rotatable joint at the socket permits directing light where desired. Useful for sewing, drawing, home work shop or office machines it has a plastic shade available in several colors.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Lasers Differ in Eye Hazards

► **ACCIDENTAL BURNS** of the eyes due to the ruby laser and the neodymium laser (infrared) are of different types and degree, three scientists at the Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, Md., reported.

Ruby laser light has a shorter wavelength than neodymium laser light and the difference lies in the absorption of different wavelengths by eye tissue.

Dr. M. L. Wolbarsht, one of the biophysicists who reported the present research in *Science*, told *SCIENCE SERVICE* that so far their work had been done with monkeys, but that eye treatment in humans could conceivably be given by the neodymium laser if nerves required destruction in diseased conditions of the retina.

The report described lesions that were produced in monkeys during experiments with the two lasers. Most of the energy from the ruby laser (wavelength 6,943 angstroms) is absorbed by the pigment epithelium, where the greatest damage appears. But with the neodymium laser (10,600 angstroms) the neural portions of the retina absorb more of the energy than the pigment layer does. Consequently, these parts show more damage than the pigment epithelium and adjacent tissues. Collaborating with Dr. Wolbarsht were K. E. Fligsten and Dr. J. R. Hayes.

How Birth Control Pills Work

Although birth control pills were reported 10 years ago and have been effectively used by some five million women, the exact way

they act is still not entirely understood, a Stockholm physician reported.

Research at the hormone laboratory, department of women's diseases, Carolina Hospital, by Dr. Egon Diczfalusy and his collaborators suggested at least two points of attack by oral contraceptives, which were reported in the *British Medical Journal*, Dec. 11, 1965.

The pill could inhibit ovulation by blocking the release of hormone from the ovary, and could make the cervical mucus hostile to penetration by the sperm.

One type of pill, based on low-level hormone supplementation, is capable of controlling fertility without stopping ovulation. In this case, changes in the womb lining, or endometrium, as well as changes in the mucus at the neck of the womb could be responsible for the contraceptive effect, Dr. Diczfalusy believes.

Efficient Filters Can Be Too Efficient

Little hope is held out that cigarette filters could be made which would avoid harmful effects to the outer veins of smokers, a report stated.

Dr. Grace M. Roth of the Vascular Laboratory, Lovelace Clinic, Albuquerque, N. Mex., said in the *Heart Bulletin*, 14:117, 1965, that to avoid the vascular effects, filters would have to be made that would be so efficient no smoke at all would pass through the cigarette.

"It is exceedingly doubtful that the average smoker would take kindly to this," she pointed out.

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