

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1342 for source information. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **CARVING ACCESSORY** holds ham, turkey, beef and other roasts securely while a person is carving. Made of plastic and measuring 5 x 5 inches, the holder has four suction-cup feet that keep the stand from slipping off the plate. Handy for use in kitchen or at the table, its 24 sharp teeth hold the meat even when being vigorously carved.

• Science News Letter, 89:160 March 5, 1966

☛ **NON-FREEZING FAUCET** with outside outlet can be easily removed by the homeowner for simple repairs even though installed in a concrete foundation or above a basement ceiling. The working parts of the faucet can be removed with a simple wrench, the washer changed and the entire assembly placed back into its permanent housing. The long valve stem reaches into the house thus preventing freezing.

• Science News Letter, 89:160 March 5, 1966

☛ **COLOR-GRADING LAMP** suitable for classifying cotton, tobacco, apples and other farm products whose quality is rated through color evaluation is a fluorescent lamp that can be used in most standard fluorescent fixtures. The light from the lamp approximates the blue-white appearance of north skylight and will also be useful for color-matching in textile, and paint industries. The bulb comes in two sizes, 48 and 96 inches.

• Science News Letter, 89:160 March 5, 1966



☛ **NEW OUTDOOR GRILL** holds the charcoal in a vertical position while the food to be cooked is placed in 16 x 8½-inch hangers on each side next to the coals. Because the drippings will not fall on the hot charcoal, grease will not flare up, thus minimizing spattering. Coffee and food can be heated on top of the grill which is on wheels and readily movable from place to place.

• Science News Letter, 89:160 March 5, 1966

☛ **INFLATABLE INVALID CUSHION** elliptically shaped is made of soft, heavy gauge vinyl plastic with a push-valve for easy inflation and deflation. Useful for post operative comfort, relief of skin irritations and bed sores, the ring measures 15½ x 13½ x 3½ inches when inflated. The cushion is also suitable for use in the home when a raised seating is desired as for ironing, counter work or as a booster cushion for children.

• Science News Letter, 89:160 March 5, 1966

☛ **SCREW GRIP** to tighten loose screws, hooks, drawer pulls and other screw-in fittings is easy to use and useful for home or shop. The grip consists of a crimped, heavy-gauge wire six inches long that is cut to twice the length of a screw shank. The wire is bent into a "V" shape, placed in the worn or enlarged hole and the screw is inserted and tightened.

• Science News Letter, 89:160 March 5, 1966

☛ **MODEL CAR RACING SET** is designed for either four-lane or two-lane racing. The 1/32-scale competition cars all having metal chassis and 12-volt motors include the XKE Jaguar, Ferrari Berlinetta and Barracuda. Included in the set are new controllers with brakes, contoured to fit the hand, 16 non-sag fence sections, 24 curved track pieces, pylon overpass supports and racing guide book.

• Science News Letter, 89:160 March 5, 1966

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Diabetes Clues in Experiments

► **WHY ADULTS** can become diabetic even though their bodies produce ample amounts of insulin has been partly explained through animal experiments.

A symptom of diabetes was produced in normal animals by injecting a material derived from insulin, researchers from Wyeth Laboratories in Radnor, Pa., reported in *Biochemistry*, February, 1966.

The material is a combination of the "B-chains" from insulin molecules and molecules of albumin, the major blood protein, and it produces a rise in the level of sugar in the blood, apparently inhibiting the action of insulin. Drs. Richard L. Fenichel, William H. Bechman and Harvey E. Alburn, who reported the study, say that the exact role of insulin is not yet known. A current theory is that insulin increases the permeability of the cell so that the sugar and other nutrients can enter the cell and be metabolized to yield energy.

## Tear Gas Pens Damage Nerves

Ladies, warning! Watch out for those tear gas pens that have replaced yesteryear's tiny pearl-handled pistols as standard equipment for women who must walk dark streets alone.

If the weapons should accidentally explode, as has happened on several occasions, the gas, actually a powder, could cause permanent damage to the nerves in the hand.

Three patients who suffered loss of feeling, or movement, or both, of the hand following explosions have been operated on, reported Dr. John P. Adams of George Washington University, Washington, D.C., but none has regained full sensation.

All of the patients felt severe burning the moment the pens misfired, Dr. Adams reported in *Medical World News*, Feb. 18, 1966. One immediately lost sensation in the thumb, index and middle fingers.

## No Blood Clots From Oral Contraceptives

Fears that women taking oral contraceptives may acquire blood vessel clots have no basis in medical fact, stated Dr. Alan F. Guttmacher, president of Planned Parenthood-World Population.

While this possibility should be kept in mind, medical findings have been negative, reported Dr. Guttmacher in "The Physician's Panorama."

Oral contraceptives are the best method of birth control for newly married couples, he recommended. Doctors should prescribe two pill cycles before marriage so the relatively transient and minor effects have time to disappear before the honeymoon.

"Don't be in a hurry to have a baby," Dr. Guttmacher advises teen-age brides especially.

Among other contraceptives rated highly effective by Dr. Guttmacher is the IUCD or intrauterine device.

• Science News Letter, 89:160 March 5, 1966