

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **BINOCULAR MAGNIFIER** that can be worn with or without glasses, is useful to workers in industry or to hobbyists at home, reducing errors and accidents. Provided with an adjustable head band, the lightweight magnifier can be slipped on quickly and easily, leaving both hands free to work. The unit fits closely over the eyes and blocks out extraneous light.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966

⚙️ **VERSATILE CABINETS** for storage of small parts help laboratory workers or hobbyists keep track of small items and prevent loss and overstocking. Designed to expand from a single cabinet into a complete storage center, the 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ -inch interlocking cabinets, which hold from 9 to 36 drawers, can be stacked like building blocks horizontally or vertically. The drawers are available in clear or opaque plastic and are chemically resistant.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966

⚙️ **INDOOR PLANTER**, 15 inches high by 6 $\frac{3}{8}$  inches long and 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide looks and feels like hand-chiseled stone but weighs only 45 pounds. Easily built by do-it-yourselfers, the portable planter, suitable for home or office, is made of crushed natural stone, imbedded in glass fiber and mounted on a wooden frame. The nonporous panels never need painting.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966



⚙️ **MERCURY BATTERY**, shown in photograph, is a new high energy battery for transistor radios, lasting up to five times longer than ordinary transistor radio batteries. The battery is one of a series of mercury batteries especially adapted for use in radios, walkie-talkies, tape recorders and other transistorized and electronic products. It stays at a constant voltage without loss of power during its life, maintaining a uniform tone quality continually.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966

⚙️ **GUITAR SILENCER** is used with an electric guitar and allows practicing without disturbing others. The small portable unit, 10 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 3 $\frac{1}{4}$  x 3 inches in size, can silence the loudest of sounds of two electric guitars at the same time allowing only the players to hear the music. The guitar instead of being plugged into an amplifier is plugged into the device and the player listens through headphones.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966

⚙️ **WATER-REPELLENT SPRAY** increases impact strength and reduces breakage of laboratory glassware. The spray is a silicone compound that forms an invisible protective film when applied to glass and other smooth surfaces. Draining even "clinging" materials completely, the cleaning of laboratory equipment is simplified by its use. The spray is available in 12-ounce spray cans.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966

⚙️ **PEDAL LIGHT** makes bicycle riding at night safer. The safety light is built right into the pedal throwing a light visible up to 1,500 feet. Gleaming red at the side and to the rear, the light shines white ahead and forms a circle of light as the bicycle is pedaled, attracting the attention of motorists. Made of stainless steel, the light goes off when the rider lifts his foot.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Antidepressant Being Studied

➤ **AN ANTIDEPRESSANT** may result from studies of a drug that apparently calms aggressive behavior but does not affect normal behavior.

The drug is referred to as IN-1060. Four researchers at the Missouri Institute of Psychiatry, St. Louis, investigated IN-1060 because earlier research had shown that it noticeably changed aggressive behavior and drug-induced abnormal behavior in dogs, without "any apparent effects on normal animal behavior."

The effects of this drug are not typical of chlorpromazine or imipramine, two already-known antidepressants, reported Bernard Korol, William J. Lang, Marjorie L. Brown and Samuel Gershon in *Nature*, 209:1249 1966. The drug "warrants further clinical investigation as an antidepressant agent," the report stated.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966

## Measles Linked to Encephalitis

➤ **ABNORMAL BRAIN** waves have been noted in children with measles, indicating that this disease may lead to encephalitis.

Recently expanded attempts to find the cause of measles encephalitis produced no definite proof. However, some scientists think the brain inflammation may be caused by the measles virus itself.

New evidence supporting this theory has come from Germany where 45 of 70 children with common measles had abnormal electroencephalogram (brain wave) readings

that were so slight, however, they could have been overlooked.

A follow-up study of the 70 children showed that all but 12 had normal brain-wave recordings after one week. Three were still abnormal at the end of seven weeks and one after nine months.

An examination of brain fluid correlated with the EEG readings in 39 cases, indicating inflammation.

The study was reported by Dieter Gmyrek, *World-Wide Abstracts of General Medicine*, January 1966.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966

## 'Great Pools' of Hepatitis Seen

➤ **"GREAT POOLS"** of chronic hepatitis, unobserved and undiagnosed, probably exist throughout the world, acting as potent sources of infection. Hepatitis often remains undiagnosed when it is not accompanied by jaundice.

A study revealing the size of this "large probable worldwide reservoir" of hepatitis was conducted on some 3,500 military men in Taiwan. All seemed to be healthy at the time of screening, but 81 or 2.3% of them reacted positively to a serum test indicating a liver problem.

Liver biopsy was performed on 66 men and it was found that 86% had hepatitis.

The study reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 274:585, 1966, was done by Lt. Comdr. William C. Cooper, Dr. Richard K. Gershon, Lt. Comdr. Shieh-Chien Sun, and Lt. Comdr. James W. Fresh of the United States Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2.

• *Science News*, 89:230 April 2, 1966