

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1362 for source information. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

⚙️ **HYDROPONIC GROWER** for classroom demonstration of soilless gardening is completely self-contained, portable and automatic. The 8×8×32½ inch unit consists of a plastic-top chamber containing a sterile growing medium, a nutrient tank with the necessary elements for growth and a pump powered by flashlight cells. A flick of a switch sends the nutrient solution into the growing chamber as needed.

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966

⚙️ **SAFETY GOGGLES** for use with ultraviolet equipment absorbs all short wave, long wave and visible violet light from ultraviolet sources. Any bluish haze is eliminated and only the fluorescent material is seen while the background remains dark. Lightweight, the goggles can be worn over regular glasses.

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966

⚙️ **HOLDING DEVICE** keeps tubing, pipe, instruments and supports in almost any position. Especially useful in chemical laboratories, the jigs simplify setting up complex apparatus. Consisting of an identical pair of circular V-blocks held rotatably back-to-back, the jigs allow positioning two objects at various angles to each other. Molded of durable plastic, the unit comes complete with instructions.

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966



⚙️ **LUGGAGE CARRIER** for Volkswagen sedans, shown in photograph, allows full rear vision for the driver. Built of lightweight tubular aluminum, the all-welded frame construction weighing six pounds, has a nine-foot platform and loads up to 15 pounds. Its rear legs attach easily to the rear bumper and can be locked securely to the sedan.

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966

⚙️ **NON-SCRATCH** all-plastic cleaning pad is suitable for a wide range of industrial applications as well as for the laboratory. The 3½×5½-inch pad consists of an inner core of flexible plastic foam with an outer sleeve of woven polyester film. It leaves no particles that might clog or contaminate delicate instruments or laboratory equipment.

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966

⚙️ **MAGNETIC LEVEL** for carpenter, machinist, mechanic, plumber, iron worker or do-it-yourselfer is a single-bubble level containing a strong magnet in its case. The level will cling to any ferric metal surface freeing both hands for the job to be done. The miniature level, which weighs only 1½-ounce can be used either as a vertical plumb or a horizontal level.

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966

⚙️ **FUME EXHAUSTER** for use on larger boats during refueling prevents heavy gasoline vapors, which could be explosively dangerous and also nauseating to occupants, from permeating and settling in the cabin and bilges. Consisting of two tubes three inches in diameter and nine feet long for intake and exhaust, and a blower, the unit operates on 110-volt circuit. The device can be reversed to force fresh air into desired areas.

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966

• Doctors Are Reading •

Do Not Worry if Baby Eats Match Book

➤ A **WORRIED** doctor was reassured when he wrote to the Journal of the American Medical Association to find out how many book matches a one-year-old child would have to eat to be in danger of death. A match manufacturing company said it would take 19 books of 20 matches each to provide a lethal dose of potassium chlorate on the match heads, and long before the child would eat so many matches there would be stomach irritation from the paper. The poison control center in Chicago was more cautious, but reported in JAMA, 197:160, 1966, that in its experience, "serious toxic effects have not resulted from ingestion of one 20-light book."

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966

Tight Headgear Causes Painful Ear Nodules

➤ **CHRONIC PRESSURE** from tight headgear has produced painful nodules on the outer ear of some nuns and telephone operators, an Oregon dermatologist reported in JAMA, 197:137, 1966. Even the slight pressure of a pillow at night is enough to waken such patients, who complain of extreme tenderness. Surgery is recommended to remove the nodules, but recurrence is common, Dr. Frederick A. J.

Kingery of the University of Oregon Medical School, Portland, said. The lesion occurs most commonly in men, many of whom have suffered frostbite.

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966

Cancer Drug Treats Eye Disease

➤ A **51-YEAR-OLD** man with glaucoma and cataracts who developed sympathetic ophthalmia (inflammation) has been treated successfully with the antitumor drug, methotrexate.

Dramatic improvement from the drug, given because the patient did not respond to steroid therapy, was reported, and after removal of the cataracts the man's vision returned to normal. Glaucoma responded to acetazolamide and installation of two percent epinephrine.

The researchers said that a number of inflammatory conditions presumed to have an underlying autoimmune mechanism have been reported to respond to certain antitumor drugs in the past decade.

Drs. Vernon G. Wong, Evan M. Hersh and Philip R. B. McMaster of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., reported the treatment in Archives of Ophthalmology, 76:66, 1966. Dr. Hersh is presently at Stanford University Hospital, Department of Medicine, Palo Alto, Calif.

• Science News, 90:62 July 23, 1966