

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1363 for source information. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

⚙️ **BANTAM AIR SAMPLER** weighs 11 pounds and is suitable for air sampling in clean rooms as well as outdoors. Applicable also for sampling ducts and stacks, areas near power plants, foundries, asphalt and cement plants as well as refineries and grain storage bins, it has a contaminant-resistant case. The device can be used with filter holders and/or impingers and has a dual-scale flowmeter and long-life rotary pump.

⚙️ **MODEL HOME KIT** is useful to those who are planning to buy, build or remodel a home or office, adding an attic, extra rooms or garage. The kit contains fiber partitions, doors, windows, kitchen cabinets and other building parts all made to one-fourth inch scale. Using the model will help a person visualize his own designs or architect's drawings. Included is a 65-page booklet to help estimate costs, and other necessary information.

⚙️ **METRIC SOCKET WRENCH** is an eight-piece socket set in a single compact tool. The wrench has two swivel ends with four sockets each in metric sizes, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17, 19, 22 and 24 mm. The sockets are installed permanently in the tool, thus eliminating the chance of misplacing or losing a socket. Suitable for use on foreign cars, bicycles and motors, or imported machinery of all types, it is made of chrome vanadium steel.



⚙️ **PIPETTING GUN**, shown in photograph, operable with one hand can be set to dispense liquids at a preset amount at any volume from 2 cc to 30 cc indefinitely at an accuracy within plus or minus one percent. Its stainless steel barrel is Teflon coated and free from sticking or freezing. The gun is easily cleaned, chemically inert and autoclavable. The unit comes complete with tubing, check valve and sinker.

⚙️ **BED EXTENDER** for tall men or women adds six inches to any size or shape bed at the head or at the foot as desired. The portable extender can be transported to any location and fitted onto beds away from home, at school, camp or on trips. Foam padded, the extenders are reinforced with plywood and fold compactly for travel. For beds with footboards, rail extenders are available separately.

⚙️ **SPORTS SPECTACLES** are field glasses weighing only four ounces that are worn just like regular eyeglasses, leaving one's hands completely free. Convenient for boating, fishing, hunting as well as for observing sports, the glasses bring objects or action on the field two and one-half times closer. The elastic band included keeps the glasses safely in place no matter how much one moves. Eyepieces focus individually and interpupillary distance is adjustable.

⚙️ **OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL OUTLET** brings electricity outdoors, easily and at low cost, and eliminates wires hanging through windows or drawn through doors. To use the unit, a hole is drilled through the wall and the device inserted. One end is plugged to the house power and the other end to the yard lights, hedge clipper, power mower, barbecue and grill or portable motor.

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Rare Complications Kill Sergeant

➤ A 59-YEAR-OLD retired Air Force sergeant with chronic meningitis was found to have rare complications involving the fungus organism *Histoplasma capsulatum* which causes histoplasmosis. Autopsy after his death showed that he had had histoplasma endocarditis. The organism had caused inflammation of the serous membrane lining the heart cavities.

Only 16 other documented cases are known, a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 275:74, 1966, said.

The sergeant had lived in a section of Tennessee where the organism is constantly present, but had spent 20 years in the Army in Europe and in Asia. He was treated at the Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C., and at the Durham Veterans Administration Hospital.

Histoplasmosis is primarily a lung infection and is not catching. In a small percentage of cases the disease may involve the adrenal glands, liver, spleen and bone marrow. Occasionally meningitis occurs and in rare instances the heart valves are involved.

The sergeant had apparently picked up a primary lung infection that remained dormant for a few years, spreading only to the lymph glands at the root of the lungs. The organism spread either through the blood or through the lymph system to the aortic valve.

The patient had suffered a blood clot of the left iliac artery after leg pain and swelling.

Drs. Herbert J. Gerber, Fred W. Schoonmaker and Martha D. Vazquez, all of Duke University Medical Center, reported the findings.

## Thalidomide Injections Seem Safe

➤ THE MALFORMED babies of mothers treated with thalidomide might have been normal if the drug had been injected instead of taken in tablet form, experiments with rabbits indicate.

Experiments reported in *Science*, 153:310, 1966, by scientists at the Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, Maine, and at Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, New York, could exonerate thalidomide itself as the cause of abnormality.

Feeding thalidomide to pregnant rabbits resulted in abnormal fetuses, but injections of the drug, dissolved in carboxymethylcellulose and glucose, into the animals' veins had "no observable effect." This could mean that a metabolite, a product of thalidomide metabolism in the intestinal tract, was possibly the real cause of malformation.

Drs. R. R. Fox, P. B. Sawin and Dorcas D. Crary of the Jackson Laboratory, and Dr. H. M. Wuest of Sloan-Kettering reported the rabbit experiments.