

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1370 for source information. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

⚙️ **ZOOM BINOCULARS** that are powered by two penlite batteries require no manual magnification adjustments. A push button changes image size and field of view, while the lens system, which varies the magnification continuously from 3x to 6x, keeps the subject being observed in focus throughout the entire zoom range. Weighing only 26 ounces, the binoculars come in a carrying case complete with batteries and neck strap.

⚙️ **AUTO MARKER FLAG** that saves time for auto repair shop or parking lot owners is designed with large numbers that can be seen from four sides and at a distance of 300 feet. Made of aluminum, it can be attached to all vehicles having a rain drip rail or radio antenna and will not mar the car. Color coded in red or green, a mechanic can tell at a glance which car still needs attention.

⚙️ **SLIDE BOX** is of opaque plastic construction that protects the colors of the slides from the effects of sunlight. The top slides out instead of lifting off and the trays lock rigidly into the box for convenient carrying. The 5x9-inch rectangular box is colored in white and gray and has 36 identification lines moulded into the base on which titles can be written.



⚙️ **VISUAL AID PEN**, shown above, will mark any acetate in use. Designed especially for use with all overhead projectors, the fiber-tipped pen deposits smooth, even lines of colors to provide sharp magnification on the screen. The ink which comes in black, blue, red or green is fast-drying, odorless and non-toxic. It is easily removed from acetates, hands or clothing with a cloth.

⚙️ **OUTDOOR COOK STOVE** shaped like a bucket 9x10½ inches in size can be used either as a stove or heater for warming tent, trailer or boat. Designed so that the fuel will not leak even if accidentally overturned, the stove provides a wide range of heat volumes and is constructed so that the lower portion remains cool regardless of heat output. It burns denatured alcohol producing a clean hot flame that is odorless.

⚙️ **AUTO CUP HOLDER** consists of a free swinging unit that holds a cup so that its liquid is level at all times. Suitable for boats, or automobiles, the cup holder is made with a gyroscopic action to keep liquids from spilling because of quick starts, stops or sudden turns. It is mounted with a single bracket to the underside of a dashboard.

⚙️ **TRIGONOMETRY CALCULATOR** gives sine, cosine, tangent and cotangent values with correct sign for any angle from 0 to 360 degrees with one setting of the dial. Made of plastic it is 8½x11 inches in size and is punched to fit a standard loose-leaf notebook. The device printed in four colors for easy reading combines all the information needed to solve most trigonometry problems.

• Doctors Are Reading •

Dentists Often First to Spot Emotional Ills

➤ **EMOTIONAL** illness is often first diagnosed in the dentist's chair, a Texas dentist has reported.

Excessive smoking, tooth grinding, pencil chewing and ringing in the ears are among symptoms suggesting some kind of emotional disturbance which may in itself be the cause of the dental disorder.

Dr. Melvin Land of Dallas said in the *Journal of the American Dental Association*, Sept. 1966, that dentists are becoming more and more aware of the psychosomatic and neurotic factors complicating dental problems.

"A patient with an inordinate amount of anxiety will fear the simplest of dental procedures," he said. Treatment easily accepted by most patients can cause fear bordering on severe panic in a disturbed patient.

Changes in the moisture of the mouth and throat are indications of emotional trouble, Dr. Land said. Chemical changes in a person's saliva brought on as a result of emotional reaction can have harmful effects on teeth.

Signs of a severe overlay of mental illness are noted in one out of 10 dental patients, Dr. Land reported.

Surgery Urged for Suspected Appendicitis

➤ **APPENDICITIS** can be dangerous to older people.

"Urgent surgical exploration" in elderly patients suspected of having an attack is recommended by two Boston physicians.

A diseased appendix tends to perforate more easily in per-

sons over 60 than in younger men and women. This can result in serious complications and even death from infection, as evidenced by high elderly death rates for appendicitis, which is otherwise a routine ailment.

Drs. Arnold G. Coran and H. Brownell Wheeler of Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, and the Veterans Administration Hospital, West Roxbury, Mass., studied 28 consecutive cases of acute appendicitis in patients between 60 and 91 years old. They found that the appendix had perforated in 17 of 21 persons operated on 24 hours or more after the first sign of illness. Only one of six others suffered a ruptured appendix when surgery was performed more immediately after symptoms appeared.

A reduction in the death rate from 28% at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital 30 years ago to only seven percent today was reported by the physicians in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 197:745, 1966.

Tonsil Tuberculosis Reported as Rare Case

➤ A 30-YEAR-OLD Kentucky housewife who went to the Canal Zone developed a sore throat that proved to be tuberculosis of the tonsils.

Further examination showed that she had TB of the lungs, believed to have infected the tonsils and throat. Maj. Douglas M. Sanford and Dr. Gary D. Becker of Gorgas Hospital, Ancon, Canal Zone, reported the case in *Archives of Otolaryngology*, 84:343, 1966. They said such cases are uncommon but that complete examination should be made when a sore throat does not respond to treatment with antibiotics.