

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1373 for source information. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

⚙️ **HOOK SNELLER** makes it easy for a fisherman to snell hooks anywhere, on the beach, in a boat or at home. A compact, device that fits in the palm of the hand, the sneller works with monofilament or braided line and is useful also for making clinch knots, worm harnesses, loop ties or snap swivel ties. Instructions are included.

⚙️ **WIRE STRIPPER** designed especially for stripping Du Pont H-film wire insulation has a special action that allows the operator to sever and remove the insulation slug from the wire in one combined operation. Useful to manufacturing companies and industry, the tool has a non-slip cushion grip handle and Teflon covered guide-guard that provides protection against scratching of the stripped wire.

⚙️ **PORTABLE DRAWING BOARD** has a foot pedal controlled maneuverable table top, 31 by 42 inches in size, that is fully adjustable locking in various inclinations from horizontal to vertical. The flexibility of the table allows the draftsman to work in the most comfortable and efficient position as needs demand, whether sitting or standing, minimizing fatigue. Folding compactly, it can be readily stored or moved from place to place.



⚙️ **VIEWFINDER TV CAMERA**, shown above, 10 inches long and 3 inches in diameter, is especially useful for taking fast-moving events such as sports, dramatics and scientific phenomena. Weighing only three pounds and easy to use, the camera has a fold-away handle with an on-off trigger that remotely controls equipment, such as a video tape recorder, monitor or receiver, connected to it. The device operates on silicon transistors.

⚙️ **AUTO SAFETY ALARM** helps keep drivers awake at the wheel. The computer-like unit stores the drivers average rate of steering wheel reversals and when it senses a deviation from the normal that could be due to sleepiness or highway hypnosis it sounds a warning alarm. Easy to install, the transistorized unit operated by a nine-volt battery is clipped under the dash and a self-adhesive sensor is attached to the steering column.

⚙️ **PLASTIC FOAM BALLS** are light-weight balls suitable for science and hobby use. Easily connected by sticks or pipe cleaners, the balls are suitable for making sturdy atomic, molecular and crystal models for teacher demonstrations or student projects. The balls which come in various sizes from 7/8 inch to eight inches, can be colored with water-based paints. Instruction sheets are available.

⚙️ **CORD HOLDER** locks the male and female ends of two electrical cords together so that when the cords are pulled, the connectors will not separate. Useful to the electrician, plumber, carpenter or to the homeowner, the device is made of shockproof polypropylene. The device is made with slots that allow the cords to be inserted without removing the electrical connectors from the wires.

• Doctors Are Reading •

Drug Found Causing Delayed Eye Trouble

➤ **EYE DAMAGE** can occur several years after discontinuing treatment with the drug chloroquine, an Oregon ophthalmologist warned in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 275:693, 1966.

Symptoms vary from none at all to the most severe loss of vision, Dr. Robert P. Burns of the University of Oregon Medical School, Portland, explained. He reported two cases—a 14-year-old girl with mild epilepsy who could not see the blackboard at school, and a 51-year-old woman who complained of spots before her eyes and four years of eye discomfort.

Chloroquine is prescribed for malaria, rheumatoid arthritis, and scleroderma, and because of the variety of diseases in which retinopathy (abnormal state of the retina) is found, no one primary disease can be blamed for the eye damage. Dr. Burns advised weighing the danger of taking the drug against its potential value in any illness, and recommended that patients requiring chloroquine should be followed up for several years by an ophthalmologist.

Leprosy Drug Reduces Malaria in S.E. Asia

➤ A **DRUG** long used for treating leprosy is being given to U.S. troops in Southeast Asia as a preventive of falciparum malaria, which is resistant to other drugs and is often fatal.

DDS, the shortened version of diaminodiphenylsulfone, is predicted to reduce the number of troops who will be stricken with this virulent form of malaria by 50%. Reports on a study made by a team of investigators from Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Washington, D.C., for six months in the infested areas show that soldiers who may yet be stricken will be able to return to duty in two or three weeks instead of from six to eight weeks. Chance of relapse, they said, is cut from 40% to four percent.

The soldiers are being given daily doses of 25-milligram pills and will continue to take them for one month after leaving the combat zone.

The falciparum type of malaria is found in the highlands of Viet Nam, and the rate of infections began to rise last fall as military operations spread into the jungle.

When U.S. and Allied Forces in Viet Nam, Thailand and Malaysia began experiencing the previously unrecognized falciparum malaria, the malaria research program was stepped up to find a preventive or treatment. Of the four types of malaria, only benign tertian (vivax) and malignant tertian (falciparum) are important from a military standpoint. Vivax, the most common, is rarely fatal, but falciparum malaria must be treated quickly and effectively as it often causes death.

Army Research and Development Newsmagazine, 7:12, 1966, reported the tests of DDS. Last year, 1,801 soldiers in Viet Nam contracted malaria and lost 63,035 man-days from duty. More than 12 deaths from the disease have occurred since January 1965.