

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1374 for source information. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

⊗ **BACK-UP HORN** sounds an alarm when the driver backs his car. The device is a small, inconspicuous, cylinder-shaped unit which makes an insistent, intermittent beep sound to warn children, pets and pedestrians when a vehicle is backing up. The horn is easily installed on the rear underside of any car or truck with a 12-volt electrical system and the wiring is spliced into either back-up light wires.

⊗ **EYEGLOSS CADDY** keeps glasses where a person can find them. An amusing as well as useful item, the caddy, made of glazed ceramic decorated with peering eyes, protects the glasses and helps prevent them from being scratched or broken. The caddy may be personalized with the person's name hand-decorated between the picture of the eyes.

⊗ **SAFETY-FLARE FLASHLIGHT** has a four-inch long attachment that snaps into the flashlight's head to provide a glowing red safety flare for use in emergencies. The flashlight itself is rubber-cushioned, unbreakable, shock-proof and weatherproof, and provided with an unbreakable lens. A permanent alnico magnet included in the flashlight will hold it tightly to any steel or iron surface.



⊗ **CLIP-ON MAGNIFIERS**, shown above, are magnifying glasses to make eyebrow plucking easier. The glasses, which are clipped onto the bridge of the nose, have narrow-shaped lenses that allow full vision but do not interfere with tweezers or eyebrows. Magnification is one and one-half times. The lightweight glasses are made of optical plastic and come in a hinged case.

⊗ **PLASTIC SPRING CLIPS** useful in home or office are tiny finger-tip sized clips with an adhesive backing that will cling to wood, glass, metal, brick, tile or other surface, rough or smooth. The clips, easily removable and remountable, are suitable for holding up bulletins, memos, job tickets, blueprints and numerous other flat materials. They can be mounted singly or in pairs in convenient spots.

⊗ **REFLECTOR OVEN** for baking over camp fires has a hinged arrangement that allows the camper to remove baked goods from the back without moving the oven or reaching over the fire. The single-shelf oven is made with the top and bottom reflectors at right angles to each other and two side reflectors to capture the maximum heat. Made of aluminum, the oven opens to 8½ by 14½ by 18 inches and folds to a package one-inch thick for storing.

⊗ **PHYSICAL BIOCHEMISTRY KIT** is a new science teaching aid designed for simultaneous use by five students. The kit contains all chemicals and specialized materials necessary to conduct six basic experiments involving protoplasm, molecular migration, enzyme action and biochemical analysis using ascorbic acid.

• 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 has warned.

Symptoms have been observed ranging up to the most severe loss of vision, Dr. Robert P. Burns of University of Oregon Medical School, Portland, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 275: 693, 1966. He cited two patients being treated with chloroquine—one 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.

Dr. Burns advised that patients requiring chloroquine be followed up for several years by an ophthalmologist.

Mixed Chromosomes Found in Third Twin Type

► **A THIRD** variety of twins has been reported in which a female hermaphrodite resulted from two sperms fertilizing one egg.

The usual twins are either monozygotic (identical and developed from one egg) or dizygotic (dissimilar and originating from two fertilized eggs).

In the case of the twin of mixed sex, all the tissues investigated were mosaic with mixtures of male and female cells. It was possible to show that the hermaphrodite had

inherited both of her father's genes instead of only one of them, both his Rh complexes and both his genes controlling eye color. This twin was an XX/XY mosaic female hermaphrodite.

But an even more remarkable aberration has occurred, the *British Medical Journal*, Oct. 1, 1966, reported. In the second aberration, which has been reported in France and now in England, monozygotic twins are not of the same apparent sex, possibly explained by the failure of a pair of chromosomes to separate normally before the fertilized egg begins to divide and multiply.

Gout Calcifies Knee Cartilage

► **A HIGH** percentage of patients with gout also have calcification of cartilage, especially in their knees, two doctors have found.

A study of 58 patients between 1958 and 1965 suggests that the association between gout and cartilage calcification is not coincidental, as has been thought, Drs. Wylie J. Dodds and Howard L. Steinbach of the University of California Medical Center, San Francisco, reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 275:745, 1966.

The number of patients in the study who had calcification of knee cartilage was higher than that expected coincidentally with gout. Ten of 31 patients had both conditions. The doctors postulated that the calcification is a secondary manifestation of gout, caused by the deposit of the sodium crystals around the joint.