

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1378 for source information. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

⚙️ **PRESSURE WASHER** makes home car washing easier and more efficient. The washer is built like a spray gun to which a soap container and a two-foot nozzle are attached. To use, the washer is connected to a garden hose and the control valve turned to the "soap" position. When the car is completely washed, the valve is turned to "rinse" to spray off the suds. The washer is also useful for cleaning windows, screens, boats and farm equipment.

⚙️ **MODEL AIR CAR.** 8 by 9 by 2 inches in size, is designed after a full-size hovercraft having giant propellers that act like fans to create a barrier of air on which the craft floats a few feet off the ground. The model, too, has a propeller at its base that raises the car a fraction of an inch off the surface. Remotely controlled by a cable that connects to batteries, the air car can also be guided in direction.

⚙️ **ANT FARM**, shown in photograph, will provide hours of educational fun to young children. The farm comes in a clear unbreakable plastic escape-proof case, 6 by 9 inches in size. The ants are visible from various angles, both below and above the surface, as they work in the soil. The farm contains a farm



building, windmill, silo, trees and barnyard in addition to the soil and a sandbar which they use to build their hills.

⚙️ **LAMP-SAVER SPRING** safeguards lamps by helping to make them bump proof, wind proof and upset proof. The spring action of the device absorbs the shock from an impact which would ordinarily upset the lamp, keeping it upright. The spring is inserted between the lamp shade and base and attached simply by screwing in. No tools are necessary.

⚙️ **ETCHING KITS** allow electronics engineers, industrial laboratory technicians and experimenters, as well as students without previous experience to etch electrical circuits inexpensively. The kits provide all necessary materials, equipment and instructions for producing circuits on copper clad laminate panels included. Each kit demonstrates a different technique of circuit board production.

⚙️ **WIND-PROOF LIGHTER** for cigarette, cigar or pipe, lights in air with a wave of the hand and has no moving parts. The unit which contains a special fluid (six months' supply furnished) produces a blue smokeless and odorless flame. Made of brass, the lightweight lighter, shaped like a lipstick holder, will light only when exposed to air.

⚙️ **CRUCIBLE FOR CRYSTALS** is made of tungsten. The crystal growing refractory crucible has a polished internal surface and excellent chemical purity to assure a clean melt and easy separation of the solidified crystal. Useful in laboratories, it is available in sizes from 1/4 to 4 inches in diameter and 6 inches in length. The crucible also comes in molybdenum, titanium and other metals.

• Doctors Are Reading •

Eyes Tired? Don't Retire

➤ **DON'T** worry if your eyes get tired. There should be nothing alarming about the gradual tiring of eyes, even after the age of 50, Dr. F. H. Newton said in *Medical Times*, Nov., 1966.

The Dallas ophthalmologist, who has made a life-long study of eye fatigue in middle-aged people, said it is safe and desirable to use the eyes, but that when fatigue occurs, frequent "eye breaks" are advisable.

When eye doctors minimize the fatigue factor, patients may wander aimlessly from doctor to doctor, change glasses and eventually retire from mental life, using weak eyes as an excuse. When there is no demonstrable organic cause of the fatigue, patients should be reassured but their fears should not be ignored. Eye fatigue is a neglected phase of geriatrics, Dr. Newton believes.

Kidney Hormone Halts Anemia

➤ **THE ANEMIA** accompanying chronic kidney disease is a result of the kidney's failure to manufacture and secrete a blood-building hormone, a Cleveland physician reported.

Dr. George C. Hoffman of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation said that a damaged kidney often fails to manufacture erythropoietin, a chemical which stimulates the production of red blood cells.

Medical opinion has previously been that the anemia is caused by retention of waste products, which are toxic to the body.

Dr. Hoffman believes that secretion of erythropoietin

and excretion of wastes are separate but interdependent functions of the kidney. A kidney that does not excrete wastes does not manufacture the hormone, he said.

Dr. Hoffman advised frequent blood transfusions for patients who are about to undergo a kidney transplant. His views were reported in *Medical World News*, 7:54, 1966.

Bad Deer Meat Causes Botulism

➤ The deer-hunting season opened in California with the usual accidents, one of which was severe food poisoning from improperly home-processed dried venison jerky (meat that has been dried or "jerked").

A 28-year-old patrolman who killed and prepared the meat, and his 24-year-old sister developed symptoms including impaired swallowing and voice placement. The hunter's two-year-old daughter developed an unsteady gait progressing to severe weakness and paralysis of the palate. Of 17 other persons who ate some of the venison, two got transient intestinal upsets.

Tracheostomies were performed on the hunter and his sister, who also were given antibiotics. The child responded to antitoxin E and seven of the others who ate the meat were given prophylactic antitoxin.

The deer had been shot near Riverton, Calif., and meat taken from the animal that afternoon was sliced into thin strips and refrigerated. The next day, the strips were smeared with four commercial ingredients used to prepare smoked meat. A later period of nonrefrigeration could have caused the trouble.