

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1379 for source information. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

⚙️ **ANTI-RUST SPRAY** protects exposed metal surfaces of fishing reels, guns and sporting goods from the corrosive effects of marine environments. The spray, which comes in a 16-ounce can, produces a long-lasting, non-tacky film which dries quickly and is not harmful to painted or plastic surfaces. The film, since it is transparent, is also useful for coating any exposed precision instruments. It can be easily removed with a light solvent.

⚙️ **PORTABLE DRAFTING MACHINE** for engineers, draftsmen, designers or students, is an all-anodized aluminum unit mounted on an 11-by-17-inch drawing board that weighs only two pounds. The instrument consists of a 360-degree protractor and a one-piece aluminum interchangeable calibrated scale. The machine is removable and can be used with a pad of paper.



⚙️ **COMBINATION TELESCOPE-MICROSCOPE**, shown in photograph, clips in the pocket like a fountain pen. It is a single unit device that can be used to observe tiny biological specimens as well as the stars in the heavens. Useful to students as well as homeowners, campers and bird watchers, the instrument consist of an 8x power telescope and 30x power microscope. Six inches long and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in diameter, it can be kept conveniently at hand.

⚙️ **PORTRAIT PILLOW**, 14 by 14 inches in size, gives a personal touch to home decoration. A person's likeness is duplicated from any clear photograph and information received about the color of eyes, hair and clothing onto linen and bonded permanently. The portrait is framed in fringed braid on a pillow available in blue or gold with a zippered closure. The reproduction will not crack or peel.

⚙️ **INSULATION HOLDERS** for use on exteriors of storage tanks and ducts are easy to install and require no adhesive bonding. The holders, which are secured around the pipe or other object to be insulated, consist of bands of non-rusting steel in which nails that project like spokes are inserted. The insulation is impaled over the nails and then permanently secured by washers placed over the nail ends.

⚙️ **SIMULATED ANIMAL FUR-LIKE THROW** of deep pile fabric is made with one side an animal print and the other a solid color. Suitable for use as a furniture throw, blanket, hearthside rug, or wrap for watching outdoor sports on wintry days, it measures 5 by 7 feet in size. Made of acrylic fabric, it is durable and washable. The throw is available in five animal or solid color combinations.

⚙️ **X-RAY SHUTTER**, designed to help prevent accidental exposure to the operator, has a warning light mounted directly on the shutter. The shutter, which can only be opened manually, closes automatically if the electric timer "times out," power failure occurs, push button is activated, or the bulb burns out. The shutter also allows each X-ray window to be timed individually for different exposures.

• Doctors Are Reading •

THERE IS SUCH a thing as too much vitamin D, even for arthritis sufferers who depend on it.

Vitamin D has been used in the treatment of arthritis, allergy, rickets, psoriasis, acne, trichinosis (the disease from larvae of underdone pork) and calcium deficiency.

Dr. Frank E. Taylor of Charlottesville, Va., reports the case of a 41-year-old patient at Martha Jefferson Hospital who was able to get large doses of vitamin D without a prescription for 12 years. At no time was he warned of the possible harmful effects of the drug. After taking 200,000 units of the vitamin a day to help his arthritis, he was admitted to the hospital with a number of serious complications, including kidney and bladder deposits. X-rays showed calcium phosphate or carbonate deposits in the tiny tubes of the kidneys. After the vitamin was stopped he continued improving for the 18 months he was observed.

Teen-age Boys' Ambition Linked To Uric Acid

A HIGH-SCHOOL boy's ambition to go to college could relate to the amount of uric acid in his blood, a purely physiological factor. The nature of the cause and effect relationship is not yet established.

Three University of Michigan researchers studied 62 Pittsburgh, Pa., high school boys through college or into the work they had chosen. Distinguishing those who attended college from those who did not was not only intelligence but their significantly higher serum urate concentrations. Serum urate, or uric acid, is a waste product of the body's metabolism.

Previous research has shown that persons with gout have high uric acid levels. In this disease, which favors the ambitious, there is a precipitation of uric acid crystals in a joint, often the joint of a big toe.

The risk of getting gout increases with the level of uric acid, though uric acid is not usually at a high enough level to cause it in normal persons.

Earlier studies that included girls were inconclusive, indicating that the effects of uric acid on behavior may apply only to males.

Researchers reporting the study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (Nov. 14) were Drs. Stanislaw V. Kasl and Sidney Cobb with George W. Brooks, all of the Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Another study at the university revealed that the drive and leadership of college professors was positively associated with uric acid levels.