

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **EDUCATIONAL ELECTRONIC KITS** include series for beginners as well as for advanced experimenters. The do-it-yourself kits are adaptable for training courses in public, private and vocational schools and in special training courses conducted by organizations. Kits cover areas such as a solid-state metronome, a code practice oscillator, an intercom amplifier and a high-low switch for house lights and electrical tools.

• Science News, 89:208 March 26, 1966

⚙️ **VINYL APRON** can be quickly cleaned with a damp cloth. Soft and pliable, it is useful to laboratory technicians, nurses, food handlers and in manufacturing plants. The linen-embossed utility apron is inexpensive and disposable, measuring 28 inches by 41 inches. It comes with grommets and tie-string tie. Completely waterproof it provides maximum protection to clothing.

• Science News, 89:208 March 26, 1966

⚙️ **VERSATILE HAND SAW** is like eight saws in one and capable of making any kind of cut in wood, metal, plaster, pipe or electrical conduit. Providing a one-and-one-half inch stroke, the 5/8 H.P. electrical saw is useful for making scroll cuts, flush cuts to wall, plunge cuts as well as for straight sawing. Easy to handle, the tool is also suitable for pruning trees. Three different blades are included.

• Science News, 89:207 March 26, 1966



⚙️ **NEW LACQUER**, shown in photograph, is designed especially for model slot racing car enthusiasts and is available in 17 colors including Ferrari Red, Cobra Blue, Lightning Yellow, Hot Rod Red and other popular colors. The lacquer can be painted on clear plastic model slot racing car bodies and comes in bottles which have a brush conveniently built into the cap.

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⚙️ **ROD CARRIER** for car tops is made of stainless steel and holds four or more fishing rods safely. The easy-to-install carrier will not mar the car's rain gutter to which it attaches, while a foam rubber strip protects the car's finish. The jaws of the unit, also padded with foam rubber, allow a tight secure grip without damaging the rods. They are designed so that they will not open accidentally.

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⚙️ **ROLL-AWAY CADDY** useful for travelers as well as the stay-at-home, helps transport luggage from airports, hotels or cars, and move heavy loads around the home. The heavy-duty caddy which can carry up to 100 pounds at a time has a completely flat surface and rolls on swivel casters with sturdy ball bearings. Loads are simply stacked on the unit, secured with a strap and pulled away.

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⚙️ **SLOT CAR LUBRICATOR** increases the speed of slot racers when applied to commutator, gears, bearings and other moving parts of the car. The lubricator, which comes in a rocket-shaped plastic container, dispenses a drop of the fluid at a time. A blend of several different lubricants, cleaners and penetrants, the substance will not harm the car's plastic, rubber or paint.

• Science News, 89:208 March 26, 1966

• Doctors Are Reading •

Testosterone Linked to Asthma

➤ **A RELATIONSHIP** between the male hormone testosterone, and asthmatic attacks, is a possibility in both men and women, an Australian scientist suggested in *Nature*, 209:1136, 1966.

Dr. E. R. Trethewie of the University of Melbourne, Victoria, has previously shown that testosterone is a powerful inhibitor of histamine and slow reacting substance (SRS) responses. Testosterone is produced in small amounts by the adrenal glands of females, while the female hormone, estrogen, is produced in small amounts by male adrenals.

Low levels were found in the blood of both male and female asthmatics, and the researcher is now investigating the possibility that the testosterone level might be consistently low. However, he believes that as a reaction to the stress of an attack, possibly associated with lack of oxygen and excess carbon dioxide, the levels may be high temporarily. He also is measuring corticoid and estrogen levels, because sometimes estrins, another name for estrogens, "enhance histamine response."

• Science News, 89:208 March 26, 1966

Deepest Sleep Most Important

➤ **SLEEP STUDIES** conducted at the University of Florida indicate that the human body requires one type of sleep above all others—the deepest, most oblivious kind. In this "stage 4" sleep wherein the brain waves assume a slow, high amplitude pattern, the muscles of the sleeper are very relaxed, and he rarely moves. Also, by all evidence, he does not dream.

Drs. Wilse B. Webb and H. W. Agnew chose eight university students for their experiment. With a full night's rest, the students averaged 92 minutes in deep sleep. When

they were deprived of sleep and allowed only three hours per night for seven days, the time spent in stage 4 sleep was only slightly reduced. Other stages of sleep, including what is thought to be dream time, were sharply cut back. During their first night of recovery the students still spent more than a normal amount of time in deep sleep throughout the first six hours. Thereafter rapid eye movement (REM) sleep, associated with dreaming took precedence. The study was reported in *Medical World News*, 7:113, 1966.

• Science News, 89:208 March 26, 1966

New Drug for Gonorrhea

➤ **GONORRHEA** sufferers who are allergic to penicillin, commonly given for venereal diseases, may be helped by a new drug called cephaloridine.

Preliminary reports indicate a cure rate of between 88% and 98% was obtained when 84 male patients were given a single intramuscular injection of the drug. It was impossible to determine an exact percentage because about half of the men did not return for a checkup. Three of those who did return had probable reinfections.

Stressing that their report is preliminary, the researchers, pointed out in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 195:919, 1966, that larger numbers of patients, including women, should be treated. The early results showed little allergic reaction.

Increasing resistance of gonococci to penicillin has required that penicillin dosages be increased periodically to maintain satisfactory cure.

Drs. James B. Lucas, James D. Thayer, of the PHS Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Phillip M. Utley, Terrence E. Billings and James E. Hackney of the Fulton County, Ga., Health Department reported the research.

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