

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1360 for source information. Send self-addressed, stamped envelop to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

⚙️ **ELECTRONIC AUDIBLE SIGNAL** for manufacturers of signal-warning devices produces a penetrating sound by purely electronic means and requires a minimum of current. Designed for use in instrumentation, automotive, data processing, telephone and fire or burglar alarm applications, the system, consisting of a series of solid-state signal generators, produces automatically predetermined sounds at frequencies of 2,800 or 4,500 cycles.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966

⚙️ **PIPETTE CANISTER** helps prevent pipette breakage and simplifies storage. The rectangular-shaped container has an adjustable top that locks in two positions to accommodate either 25, 10, 5 or 1 milliliter pipettes. Constructed of stainless steel, the canister, which holds up to 49 one-milliliter pipettes, has a heat-resistant and shock-absorbing covering.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966

⚙️ **SPRAY-SCRUBBER** for cleaning floors of garages and patios, and also driveways, washes as it sweeps. The scrubber consists of a 16-inch wide plastic brush connected to an aluminum handle to which a garden hose attaches. As the person sweeps the floor, water is released as needed, passing down through the handle to the brush.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966



⚙️ **PORTABLE BATTERY**, shown in photograph, comes in a carrying case with adjustable shoulder strap to provide power to TV, tools or appliances wherever needed. The lead-acid battery which is sealed and maintenance-free has an automatic charger and is rechargeable. The 12-volt battery weighs only 10 pounds and measures $9\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$ inches. It is especially useful for picnics, camping trips or remote places without electricity.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966

⚙️ **COORDINATE POSITIONING STAGE**, having a total range of 2×2 inches and outside dimensions of $5\text{-}5/16 \times 5\text{-}5/16$ inches, can be mounted for both horizontal and vertical X-Y positioning of objects. The stage is useful as a coordinate comparator for microscopic examination, for application in research and development laboratories, as well as for inspection and quality control of parts.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966

⚙️ **EYE-MIRROR** for contact lens users provides a view enlarged five times to obtain exact centering of the lens. Made of polished optical glass, 40 mm in diameter, it has an aluminized surface that gives an undistorted image. The mirror is packed in a clear hinged plastic box.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966

⚙️ **ALARM SYSTEM** for protecting the home from burglars is controlled by a palm-size battery-powered portable radio transmitter that can be kept close by anywhere in the home. At a touch the transmitter beams a radio signal to a small receiver concealed on the premises, which activates a police-type siren. Requiring no special wiring or installation, the receiver of the system is simply plugged into a standard household electrical outlet.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966

• Doctors Are Reading •

Dogs Teeth Resistant to Decay

➤ **DOGS' TEETH** are apparently very resistant to decay.

Dr. Thompson M. Lewis of the University of Washington, Seattle, reported that during a two-year study of dogs exposed to artificially induced caries lesions, caries never was manifested clinically, radiologically or histologically.

Previous studies, however, have sometimes shown carious lesions in dogs.

Dr. Lewis pointed out in Dental Abstracts, May, 1966, that in his study some carious areas were thought to be present in teeth, but invariably the histologic scrutiny failed to substantiate these observations.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966

Low Salt Diet Harmful in Pregnancy

➤ **A HIGH SALT** diet may be a better, safer treatment for toxemia of pregnancy than a low salt diet, three nutritionists reported in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, July 1966.

Low salt diets during pregnancy appear to be harmful to both mother and child, according to studies on laboratory animals at the Pennsylvania State University.

Physicians are urged to take a new, hard look at the long-held practice of reducing the salt intake of pregnant women with swollen tissues, high blood pressure, and a variety of toxemia symptoms. Ruth L. Pike, a PhD in nutrition in the Department of Foods and Nutrition at Penn State, and two of her graduate students, J. Elizabeth Miles

and Dr. Janet M. Wardlaw, described their experiments on laboratory rats which suggest the present toxemia treatment may be wrong.

Low salt diets have long been recommended by physicians for women suffering from toxemia of pregnancy, Miss Pike said, but the problems of toxemia are compounded by the practice of restricting salt in the diet.

Pregnant animals on low-sodium diets showed evidence of general weakness and ill-health and their kidneys, adrenals and blood reflected gross metabolic disturbances.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966

Hypothyroidism May Not Increase Atherosclerosis

➤ **A DEFICIENT THYROID** gland may not augment atherosclerosis as is commonly assumed, according to a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 196:28, 1966.

Dr. Edwin R. Fisher, pathologist at the University of Pittsburgh, found that hypothyroidism evoked less atherosclerotic change in the arteries of cholesterol-fed rabbits than in controls. The administration of d-thyroxine, a compound used to treat hypothyroidism, provoked more changes.

Although these results are supported by few other studies, Dr. Fisher pointed out that evidence favoring the opposite point of view is "indirect, speculative and somewhat teleological." The mechanism by which the hypothyroid state, or the administration of thyroxine influenced the development of atherosclerosis is uncertain.

• Science News, 90:30 July 9, 1966