

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1177. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC CIRCULAR CHART DRIVE** is battery operated and designed for installation in remote areas such as gas-gathering systems and oil field operations. Equipped with a self-starting mechanism and of dust-proof construction, it will operate from four to six months on a standard D size battery. Its standard mounting dimensions permit interchangeability with conventional chart drives.

• Science News Letter, 83:16 January 5, 1963

⚙️ **VENTED GAS BASEBOARD HEATER** makes heating attics, new wings or even barns and garages easy and economical. Each unit, finished in baked enamel, is equipped with a built-in thermostat for zone control and is designed so that no room air is consumed. Only 10 and one-half inches high and four and three-eighths inches wide, it can be connected to the existing gas supply.

• Science News Letter, 83:16 January 5, 1963

⚙️ **NYLON NUT KIT** contains nuts that will fit over 250 types of screw threads, eliminating the need to look for the exact nut for a particular screw. Partially threaded, the screws or bolts, even wooden ones, cut their own thread in the nylon nut. Non-corrosive, vibration resistant, inexpensive and reusable, they are useful in industry as well as in the home.

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⚙️ **ELECTRIC STEAM COOKER**, shown in the photograph, has a tough lightweight plastic bowl that cooks with steam generated in a boiler unit at the base of the appliance. The device automatically stirs and cooks cereals, soups, puddings, rice and hot dishes without scorching or burning. Eggs may be scrambled without fat in the bowl

or poached in a special unit. It will also cook fresh or frozen vegetables without adding water.

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⚙️ **PAINT HOBBY KIT** includes two frames with the paint-by-letter pictures, eliminating the need to go frame hunting after finishing a picture. Varied in subject matter, there are pictures to satisfy both young and old. In addition to the frames, the set includes two paintings, oil base paints, a brush and instructions.

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⚙️ **MULTIPLE SPRAY RIG** for fast spraying of roof coatings, fireproofing, wall finishing and waterproofing materials can be operated by one person. It handles any type of spray from the smoothest to the heaviest of textures, while sand or aggregates may be added to the materials without harm to the machine. An ordinary house can be sprayed with acoustic material in 15 minutes.

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⚙️ **MAGNETIC MIRROR**, convenient for lockers, car or home, will hang almost anywhere. The strong magnet on the back of the mirror holds it securely to most ferrous metal surfaces. Attractively framed in clear plastic, the mirror makes a handy traveling accessory.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Guide to 5,000 Drugs

➤ **DOCTORS' WIVES** may be borrowing their husbands' official medical journal to get interior decorating ideas from the 60 colors included in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 182: 1145, 1962, devoted to a drug guide.

But the color chart is deadly serious. With other descriptive material, the guide identifies 5,000 drugs, the bulk of prescription pharmaceuticals that are nationally distributed.

A poisoning victim is brought into an emergency room at a hospital with perhaps a single capsule in his pocket as a clue. The color is green and yellow, the shape is like a bullet, the contents are white powder. With the AMA code for reference, the drug may soon be identified as an antihistamine and treatment begun to offset the effects of overdose or allergy.

It took the AMA four years to code the drugs, a job begun under the direction of Dr. John J. Hefferren, now with the American Dental Association in Chicago, and completed by Dr. Joseph B. Jerome, assistant director of the AMA Department of Drugs.

In an introductory description of the guide, Dr. Hefferren said that almost every group or laboratory involved in the identification of drugs has for years maintained a limited library, but the AMA guide for solid dosage forms is the most comprehensive of any yet developed.

Fifteen pages show black and white reproductions of 435 cap-

sules and tablets with symbols and imprints used on each one. Other pages include coding numbers, trade names and size in millimeters, with references to pharmaceutical firms.

The common one-eighth-grain saccharine tablet could come under these data: main type—tablet; coating—uncoated; top view—round; side view—flat without bevel; type of coloring—solid; outside color—white; markings—unmarked; number of inside colors—single; inside scoring—unscored; inside color—white.

There are examples of completed coding cards to be made up, including these points along with trade and generic name and drug classification such as "antispasmodic," "anticonvulsant," and "antihistaminic."

The need to identify an unknown tablet or capsule may vary from emergency treatment of poisoning to a detailed study of the cause of death in a coroner's laboratory, Dr. Hefferren said.

The guide was designed as an aid for physicians, pharmacists, hospitals, law enforcement agencies, poison control centers and others involved with drugs.

Police officials could use it in handling illegal drug traffic and in identifying drugs carried by persons found unconscious in the street to determine whether the individual is under the influence of alcohol or in a diabetic coma.

The guide will reach JAMA's 195,000 subscribers immediately, and an additional 25,000 copies are available at 45 cents, the cost of the Journal, published in Chicago.

• Science News Letter, 83:16 January 5, 1963