

• 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 1178. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **RELIEF MAPS** for school or home are printed in four colors on washable flexible plastic. Raised in relief to show major differences in elevations, the mountains, valleys, basins, plateaus and major rivers are clearly defined on the maps. Political boundaries and important towns and cities are also marked. Maps for U.S., World, Europe and Asia each measure 27½ by 20 inches.

• Science News Letter, 83:32 January 12, 1963

⚙️ **PORTABLE DISHWASHER** serves also as a decorative worktable. The dishwasher has a lift-top rack so designed that dishes, silver and glasses are easily placed in their proper compartments. The machine dries and stores 15 place settings. Supplied with rubber casters, it can easily be rolled to any desired location.

• Science News Letter, 83:32 January 12, 1963

⚙️ **FOLD-UP PORTABLE CHAIR** for sport enthusiasts, campers, spectators, gardeners and artists opens to a comfortable 12-by-6-inch seat. Only 24 ounces in weight, it fits into a coat pocket, golf bag, tackle box or car glove compartment. Built for heavy duty, it is made of colorful canvas and strong metal. When folded it has a self-handle.

• Science News Letter, 83:32 January 12, 1963

⚙️ **SCREWDRIVER ATTACHMENT** shaped to fit the palm of the hand is in-



cluded in a mechanic's kit with two screwdrivers and a storage bracket. Easy to grip and guide, the attachment, shown in the photograph, fits into a special socket in the handle of the screwdriver and turns like a door knob, permitting application of direct, even pressure to the tool. The screwdrivers can be used with the attachment.

• Science News Letter, 83:32 January 12, 1963

⚙️ **NON-SPILL SIPHON PUMP** allows filling a succession of containers without spilling or splashing. The pump is connected to the mouth of the dispensing container and a 56-inch tube leads to the receiving container. The pump is pressed, forming a natural siphon, and containers are filled by simply opening and closing a pet cock in the tube. Tubes are available in plastic, lead, hard rubber or aluminum.

• Science News Letter, 83:32 January 12, 1963

⚙️ **SWIMMING POOL ENCLOSURE** allows year-around swimming in the backyard pool. Easily put together by two people, the solarium is an A-shaped redwood frame covered with double-layered clear plastic with an insulating air space. When warm weather returns, the unit can be dismantled or the plastic replaced with screening. Hardware is aluminum and stainless steel.

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⚙️ **MILK TRANSPORT CASES** made of lightweight maintenance-free plastic weigh only three pounds. Said to be easier to handle than the wooden cases now used, they are vermin-free, unbreakable, impervious to moisture and long-lasting. The cases hold 20 one-quart cartons and can be used interchangeably with conventional wooden or metal cases.

• Science News Letter, 83:32 January 12, 1963

• Doctors Are Reading •

Dysentery Outbreak

Overcrowded, dilapidated housing in an area of Omaha, Neb., was blamed for an outbreak of dysentery caused by the bacillus *Shigella*, called shigellosis.

A total of 87 confirmed cases of this bacillary dysentery occurred during late 1961 and early 1962 in 41 households and a nursing home, a group of public health workers reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 182:1307, 1962.

Most of the cases were concentrated in a 17-by-30-block area known as the near north side, where in some cases 13 to 17 persons lived in five rooms. Because of the large number of food handlers and other service workers in this part of the community, the infection was a potential hazard to the entire city.

Because of the generally high level of housing and sanitation in the United States, large community outbreaks have not been reported recently, and a *Journal* editorial in the same issue urged renewed efforts to improve environmental conditions.

Dr. Wiley H. Mosley, Kansas City, Kans., Field Station, Communicable Disease Center, Public Health Service, collaborated with Dr. Edwin D. Lyman and Beatrice Adams, a registered nurse, both with the Omaha-Douglas County Health Department, in the study.

They reported that the infection was not spread from a common source, such as water, but from "person-to-person" and "household-to-household."

Five Equal Aspirin Compounds

► Five non-prescription aspirin compounds showed no significant difference in ability to ease pain, three medical researchers reported in *JAMA* (p. 1315).

But two of the compounds, Excedrin and Anacin, were associated with a "significantly higher incidence" of upset stomach. The upset was attributed to the drug phenacetin contained only in these two preparations.

No more upset stomach was found with Bayer or St. Joseph's Aspirin than with Bufferin, the researchers said, adding that the difference in retail purchase price of the five drugs is "not reflected in the effectiveness and comfort of the treatment."

The study was reported by Dr. Thomas J. DeKornfeld of Baltimore City Hospitals, Dr. Louis Lasagna of Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, and Todd M. Frazier of the Baltimore City Health Department.

• Science News Letter, 83:32 January 12, 1963