

# • 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 1181. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **ORGAN-SCANNING MODEL** speeds up medical radioisotope scanning. Consisting of a liquid-filled transparent shell that duplicates the abdominal contours of man from the diaphragm to the upper pelvis, organs can be inserted or removed. Simulated tumors can be placed anywhere within an organ for study. When filled with water, the model is tissue-equivalent.

• Science News Letter, 83:80 February 2, 1963

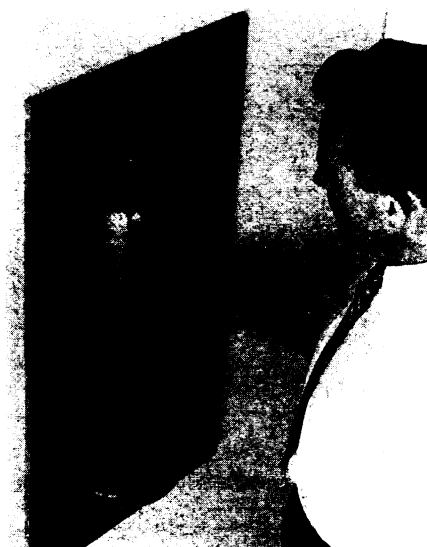
⊗ **POCKET POSTAL SCALE** has new postal rates, five cents and eight cents per ounce, plainly marked for easy reading. About the size of a fountain pen and provided with a spring clip, it fits into the pocket, purse or stationery box. Made of stainless steel and two-tone plastic, it is available in four colors.

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⊗ **FAMILY MEDICAL FILE** to keep an accurate health record of the family contains 28 pages, five and one-half by eight and one-half inches in size. Vaccinations, dates of diseases, blood types, drug prescriptions and other information can be itemized. Spaces for medical costs are also provided. Included are two wallet-sized cards to list special emergency information.

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⊗ **FIRE EXTINGUISHER CABINET**, shown in the photograph, keeps the fire



extinguisher prominently displayed and ready for use. Provided with a semi-cylindrical canopy door panel of tough, shatter-resistant plastic, the cabinet permits the extinguisher to be seen from any part of a 180-degree arc and can be recessed in a wall of only four and three-eighths inch depth.

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⊗ **DISPOSABLE CONDUCTIVE OVER-SHOES** made of special lightweight black static-free polyethylene assure safe discharge of electricity in operating rooms and plants where explosives from shoe sparks are a hazard. Boot-shaped, the waterproof and acid-resistant overshoes tie above the ankle and may be worn with or without shoes. They also protect the shoes from spills and contamination.

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⊗ **MOBILE SCIENCE UNIT** for schools converts any classroom into a science laboratory in minutes. The complete laboratory bench on wheels, which can be moved from room to room, has a built-in water supply, sink, work space for experiments and storage space. The set includes a 200-page lab manual, 150 pieces of apparatus and basic supplies for the experiments.

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⊗ **ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT KIT** contains solderless connectors and is useful for experimenting and as a training aid in electronic breadboarding. The connectors, consisting of a plastic head, coil of wire and a plastic base with a spring clip, are inserted in the holes of the circuit board where they are held firmly without the use of special tools. Wires and leads are threaded through the connector coils.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Fight Depression With Food

► **PEOPLE** use food as medicine to combat feeling low and depressed.

This appears to be as true of Air Force personnel as of obese housewives, Capt. Robert I. Simon of the U.S. Air Force Medical Corps, San Francisco, indicated in a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 183:208, 1963.

Capt. Simon questioned 27 overweight officers and airmen and 50 randomly selected personnel who were not obese, anticipating that those who used overeating to combat depression would be less likely to report signs of the blues.

Of the 50 non-obese individuals, 13 had a history of significant depression, whereas only one of the 27 obese personnel had had similar experience.

The primary gain is directed toward overcoming unpleasant feelings of insecurity, anxiety and depression caused by conscious and unconscious conflicts, Capt. Simon said. As a secondary gain, he said, obesity may be used as a defensive or offensive weapon to bring about changes in personal relationships and the immediate environment.

## Lung Disease Increasing

The fastest-rising cause of total disability in the U.S. today is chronic lung disease, Dr. Richard W. Stone, assistant medical director of the New York Telephone Company, reported in the *Archives of Environmental Health*, Jan., 1963.

Worker disability allowances for lung cancer and such chronic respiratory diseases as bronchitis, pneumonia and emphysema are surpassed in number only by heart disease due to hardening of

the arteries, Social Security data indicate. Dr. Stone called on industry, health agencies, government and academic bodies to plan an assault on the causes of the rising trend.

## Surgery for Circulation

Circulation can be restored to the lower leg and foot affected by hardening of the arteries as a result of advances in surgery, Dr. Robert R. Linton of Massachusetts General Hospital reported in *JAMA*, 183:198, 1963.

It is almost "miraculous" to see how well the reconstructive arterial operation restores circulation to the lower limb, he said, adding that many patients save their lower extremities from amputation in this way.

## Sunday Vaccine Clinics

Sabin oral polio vaccine immunized 754,000 Arizona persons against all three types of polio last year, a report from two counties said in *JAMA*, 183:171, 1963. Drs. Richard B. Johns and Stanford Farnsworth of Phoenix, and Drs. Hugh Thompson and Frederick Brady of Tucson, who reported the study, said that 75 per cent of the total population of Maricopa and Pima Counties were protected. All clinics were scheduled on Sundays, and school buildings were used.

## Miners' Lung Problem

A large percent of 16,000 bituminous coal miners in central and western Pennsylvania showed signs of pneumoconiosis, a chronic lung inflammation, in a study by the state's Division of Occupational Health reported in *JAMA*, 183:176, 1963.

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