

• 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 1183. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **EMERGENCY HEAT AND LIGHT** for homeowners come in a kit that contains all the items necessary to supply heat, light and cooking facilities during power failure. The set includes a portable stove, a camplight and four propane fuel tanks that will provide 42 hot meals and 50 hours of light. Its metal carrying case will double as a windshield.

• Science News Letter, 83:112 February 16, 1963

☛ **RADIANT HEAT INCUBATOR**, 26 by 17 by 17 inches in size, is a convenient in-between size useful in clinics, hospitals and laboratories. Having a temperature range from slightly above room temperature to 149 degrees Fahrenheit, heat is reflected evenly across the three aluminum shelves. A viewing window permits observing contents without opening the door.

• Science News Letter, 83:112 February 16, 1963

☛ **BALANCE VECTOR CALCULATOR** for use with vibration analyzers solves vector problems without the need for plotting. Values are read directly off the instrument like a slide rule. Changes in phase angle to determine the location to apply a balance correction weight and its amount can be quickly found from figures on the flexible transparent calculator.

• Science News Letter, 83:112 February 16, 1963



☛ **UNDERWATER SPOTLIGHT** for the sportsman, shown in photograph, is a sealed battery-powered 40,000 candle power light in an all-rubber case. Completely waterproof and rustproof, it can be lowered into the water to attract fish at night. The light is adaptable to the car lighter socket and boat or auto battery. An extension cord and battery clips are included with the set.

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☛ **IDENTIFICATION CAMERA** that incorporates a Polaroid camera back makes it possible to take duplicate personnel identification photos in 10 seconds. As many photos as needed can be reproduced, thus saving time and costs. Easy to operate, the main components of the unit are the rotatable camera body, lens and beam splitter assemblies, all supported on an adjustable tripod.

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☛ **BUDGET RECORD BOOK** makes it easy for people who dislike budgeting to keep track of family income and expenses. By filling in a few spaces each day in the 80-page, 8½ by 11-inch notebook an accurate account of daily expenses, such as food, clothing, medical services and charities can be kept. Expenditures for a day, week, month or year can be seen at a glance.

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☛ **DESK PEN SET** holds a ball-point pen topped with a plastic letter opener embossed with the gradations of a four-inch ruler. Designed in the ivory-colored plastic base is a permanent ink pad for a personalized name and address stamp included with the set. The unit with pen stands about eight inches high.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Radioactive Iodine for Thyroid Cancer

► **PATIENTS** are still apparently free of thyroid cancer 13 years after surgery and treatment with radioactive iodine, according to a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 183:303, 1963. Follow-up examinations of 152 patients so treated at the University of Michigan showed that 73 had no signs of the disease for an average of five years, which is the most encouraging report so far published. Drs. Thomas P. Haynie, Mohamed M. Nofal and William H. Beierwaltes, who reported the findings, said their best results were with young people.

Pink Pork Danger

Housewives are reminded in an editorial in the current *JAMA*, 183:365, 1963, that a good cook never sets pink pork on the table if she does not expect her family to get trichinosis. Hog-raisers also are warned about feeding uncooked garbage to their stock, a fact well known.

In spite of cause and prevention being understood, trichinosis continues to occur in this country, especially in the South. Undercooked sausage and home-cured ham may also harbor the parasite *Trichinella spiralis*, which infects pork. Pork should be cooked at least one-half hour to the pound.

Physicians should ask their patients about pink pork, the editorial says, inasmuch as diagnosis is difficult.

Trichinosis can masquerade as an upper respiratory infection, acute nephritis, rheumatic disease, stomach or intestinal disorder, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, primary heart disease or neurologic disease, including meningitis and encephalitis. The successful treatment of trichinosis depends on early diagnosis.

More than 300 cases were reported in the U.S. in 1961, but thousands of cases probably have not been reported.

Computer Consults

Physicians in need of expert medical consultation can now call in a computer. A report in the current *JAMA*, 183:307, 1963, told of a programmed computer that came up with the same answer as the diagnosing physician in 258 of 268 cases of thyroid condition.

The average physician may see only 10 cases of thyroid disease a year, but with a computer the combined experience of the best qualified diagnosticians can be made readily available. In this study, the computer made its decisions on the basis of relative frequencies of 21 factors in overactive, underactive or normal thyroid cases.

Dr. John E. Overall of the Kansas State University department of psychology, Manhattan, with the KSU computation center's cooperation and that of Dr. Clyde M. Williams of the University of Florida College of Medicine, department of radiology, Gainesville, reported the study.

More Women With Lung Cancer

More women are getting lung cancer than formerly, Dr. Theodore H. Noehren of Buffalo, N. Y., reported in *JAMA*, 183:398, 1963, Questions and Answers section. The New York State Bureau of Cancer Control indicates that the relative increase between 1942 and 1961 was 124.8% in women and only 72.2% in men, with similar figures available elsewhere in the U.S. Cigarette smoking is commonly associated with bronchogenic carcinoma, the most common type of lung cancer, Dr. Noehren said.

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