

• 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 1185. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **TRANSISTORIZED IGNITION SYSTEM** for any automobile, truck or tractor with a 6- or 12-volt negative ground electrical system eliminates the need for frequent engine tune-ups and increases motor efficiency. Since the ignition system uses a transistor instead of contact points and there is no carbon formation, points and spark plugs last indefinitely.

• Science News Letter, 83:144 March 2, 1963

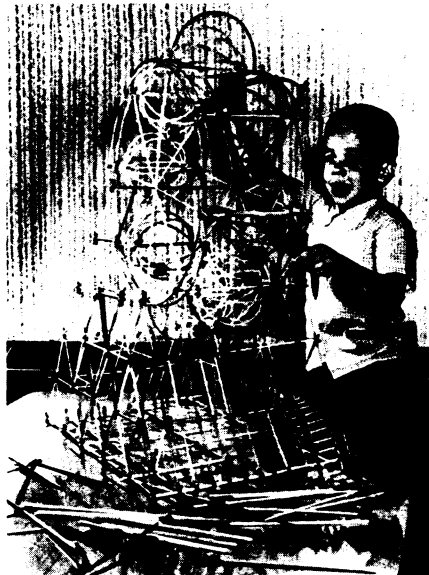
⊗ **DIVIDED-CIRCLE SPECTROMETER** that is small and economically priced for educational laboratories is also suitable for industrial and research laboratories where readings to one minute are satisfactory. It is accurate for a range of vertical adjustments and its accessories permit procedures possible with more intricate spectrometers. A booklet of experiments is available.

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⊗ **ALUMINUM FENCE LATTICE** will beautify old or new chain link fences and provide privacy at the same time. Consisting of two-inch wide aluminum strips, the lattice is interlaced in the fence links to give a basket-weave effect. The strips, available in five baked-on enamel colors, can be cut with ordinary scissors. Illustrated instructions accompany each order.

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⊗ **PLASTIC BUILDING STRAWS**, shown in the photograph, stimulate the imagination



and provide fun for the whole family. The colored eight-and-one-half inch straws are unbreakable, can be bent into curves or cut to size, and can be used over and over again. The set includes vari-shaped joiners and straws for building ferris wheels, windmills, bridges, rocket launches, mobiles and many other structures.

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⊗ **NON-SAG SEALANT** for industrial purposes may be used for slanted surfaces, for vertical or horizontal sealing jobs, such as doors, and for overhead applications. Easily applied at temperatures down to zero degrees Fahrenheit, the sealant adheres to both porous and non-porous surfaces, including glass. An aluminum-fortified adhesive, it is stain resistant, weatherproof and flexible.

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⊗ **SOLAR ENERGY GRILL** gives clean even heat without fuel or flame for safe outdoor cooking and is usable in any season whenever the sun shines. The sun's rays are reflected from the surface of eight plastic mirrors to provide heat for cooking in the oven below. Temperature is adjusted by turning the grill to receive more or less sunshine. It folds into a compact portable unit 17 by 17 by 6 inches in size.

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⊗ **PORTABLE GRINDING ATTACHMENT** with handle can be fitted to a one-fourth, three-eighths or one-half-inch electric drill. The grinding stone is clamped between the handle on one end and the attached drill on the other. The attachment can be used with a V-stone for sickle sharpening, small flat stone for tight places, wire brush or masonry stone. The tool, made with a left-hand thread, tightens as it turns.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Ban Urged on Rat Poison

➤ A RAT POISON that has been causing death or brain damage to children in the South has been condemned for household use by researchers who say present legislation should be strengthened, reports the Journal of the American Medical Association, 183:516, 1963.

A follow-up of 72 children who had eaten food saturated with the pesticide thallium sulphate in four Texas cities showed that nine had died and that 26 had abnormalities involving the nervous system.

An editorial accompanying the article by five investigators said the only effective means of stopping such poisonings would be complete curtailment of household use of the pesticide (p. 590). Present legislation by the U.S. Department of Agriculture limits the content of thallium sulphate to 1%, but one ounce of the mixtures now marketed can kill a 51-pound child.

Reporting the study were Drs. Dwayne Reed, Leonard T. Kurland and Stanley N. Faro (now at the University of California, San Francisco) working together at the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., with Drs. James Crawley and Samuel J. Pieper of Baylor University, Houston, Texas.

Donating Dead Bodies

The legal way to donate a dead body for medical research is described in JAMA, 183:606, 1963, by the AMA Committee on Medicolegal Problems. Names of institutions and officials in 39

states and the District of Columbia are listed with the suggestion that an inquiry be sent to find out whether an institution is interested in donations of bodies.

The right of a person, by will, to provide for disposition of his body is generally accepted, but the husband, wife or next of kin has the final decision.

Parts of bodies, such as the cornea, and other parts for tissue banks, bone and artery banks can be willed for removal and use in living persons.

Anthropology and Medicine

The teaching of medicine can be humanized by adding anthropology, the science of man, to the medical curriculum, Dr. Ashley Montagu, anthropologist of Princeton, N. J., advised in JAMA, 183:577, 1963.

The human organism can satisfy every test of normality and yet be very sick indeed, Dr. Montagu said, adding that many doctors have spent their whole lives practicing medicine by the formula: If it can not be measured, standardized, or tested, then it probably does not exist! The few anthropologists employed in medical schools are physical, not cultural anthropologists, and they are usually attached to the department of anatomy where their principal function is to teach anatomy.

"A good training in the fundamentals of cultural and physical anthropology is essential," Dr. Montagu said. Some medical schools are employing anthropologists in the department of psychiatry.

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