

• 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 1194. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **BOLDFACE TYPEWRITER ATTACHMENT** produces semibold and boldfaced characters from any existing type style without removing the copy. Ideal especially for engineering offices as a means of quickly typing side headings, figure numbers and special parameters in mathematical formulas, the attachment can be used on standard office typewriters, as well as electrical typewriters.

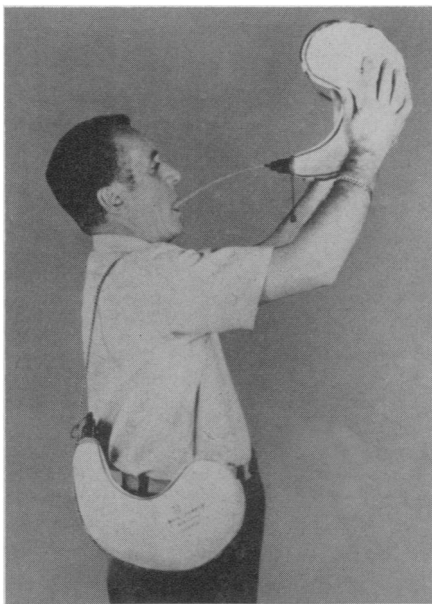
• Science News Letter, 83:288 May 4, 1963

⚙️ **ELECTRIC WIRE STRIPPER** only five inches long readily strips plastic, glass braid, rubber and other types of both high and low temperature coverings. Lightweight and portable, the unit is applicable for remote site use as well as in production lines. Its long-life blades are quick cooling and non-oxidizing and do not nick or damage the wire.

• Science News Letter, 83:288 May 4, 1963

⚙️ **SAFETY WARNING BLINKER** for automobiles, styled like a miniature police light, has a large bright red dome that flashes 70 times per minute and is visible night or day in any weather. The magnetized blinker plugs into the auto lighter socket with a 10-foot cord and will cling firmly to any metal surface of the car either vertically or horizontally. Its low current consumption permits all night usage.

• Science News Letter, 83:288 May 4, 1963



⚙️ **GENUINE "BOTA"** imported from Spain, shown in the photograph, is useful to sportsmen, fishermen, hikers and picnickers. Made of goatskin and lined with plastic, the "bota" holds about one-half gallon of liquid, lemonade, fruit juice or punch, keeping it cool and refreshing for many hours. Several can drink directly

from the container, which comes complete with carrying strap, since its mouth never touches the lips.

• Science News Letter, 83:288 May 4, 1963

⚙️ **PAN BALANCE KIT** for school or home laboratory consists of 21 parts for making a simple pan balance. Easily assembled, the parts include a wooden base, wooden dowel for balance arm, weighing pans and hooks and clips. Complete instructions are included.

• Science News Letter, 83:288 May 4, 1963

⚙️ **NIGHT GLOW TUMBLERS**, for sickrooms, nurseries and home bathrooms, glow in the dark. Ivory-colored and translucent under ordinary light, the unbreakable plastic cups emit a visible light after previous exposure to daylight or artificial lighting. They do not contain radioactive material and will withstand temperatures up to 190 degrees Fahrenheit.

• Science News Letter, 83:288 May 4, 1963

⚙️ **ELECTRICAL CONNECTOR ADAPTER** set helps solve the problem of using U.S. electrical equipment abroad. Most foreign electrical appliance receptacles are designed to receive electrical plugs with round prongs. This set, consisting of four types of adapters, permits usage of most foreign equipment with U.S. outlets or U.S. devices with foreign electrical outlets.

• Science News Letter, 83:288 May 4, 1963

• Doctors Are Reading •

Safe Test for Penicillin Allergy

➤ **ALLERGIES TO penicillin** and other drugs can be determined by a new, safer test, a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 184:171, 1963, states.

In the new test, carried out in the laboratory, a drop of the patient's blood is mixed with a solution of penicillin. If a certain percentage of basophils, a type of white blood cells, disintegrates, it indicates the patient is allergic, Dr. Walter B. Shelley, Philadelphia dermatologist, reports.

The most common means of testing for penicillin sensitivity today is to inject a small amount of the drug into the patient's skin. Yet even this small amount of penicillin can be dangerous for some patients. The test itself has caused occasional fatalities, Dr. Shelley said.

The question of penicillin sensitivity arises in about 10% of patients seen in practice.

Dr. Shelley said the test has also detected allergy to other drugs and to horse serum, pork and egg, substances used in vaccines.

Progress After Salt Poisoning

Eight infants who survived accidental salt poisoning are progressing normally, three physicians said in *JAMA*, 184:187, 1963.

In March 1962, 14 infants in Binghamton (N.Y.) General Hospital were fed formulas containing salt instead of sugar. Six of them died. As of September 1962, all of the surviving babies have shown "normal growth and development," Drs. Laurence

Finberg of the Baltimore City Hospitals, Baltimore, John Kiley of Albany Medical College, Albany, N.Y., and Charles N. Luttrell of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, reported.

Penicillin-Resistant Gonorrhea

Adequate penicillin therapy cured cases of gonorrhea believed to be penicillin-resistant, physicians said in *JAMA*, 184:197, 1963.

Initial treatment with high doses of penicillin (2.5 million units) was successful in all cases. All but one of the patients not helped by initial treatment with lower doses were cured by two additional administrations of 2.5 million units of penicillin.

The doctors treated 144 men. Sixty-three strains of the gonococci bacteria previously defined as "relatively resistant" were isolated, Drs. Burton Sokoloff, now in Miami, and Howard Goldstein, now in Los Angeles, said. The studies were made while they were stationed in Ft. Bliss, Texas, using military personnel.

Foot Infections

Foot baths and ultraviolet light devices in shower rooms are of little or no value in preventing fungus infections of the feet.

Such infections can best be avoided or controlled by personal hygiene, including thorough drying between the toes after showers, Dr. Allan L. Lorincz, a Chicago dermatologist, said in the questions and answers section of *JAMA*, 184:256, 1963.

• Science News Letter, 83:288 May 4, 1963