

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **FISHERMAN'S PLIERS** are useful for many jobs for the sportsman, including hook removal, tackle and reel repairs, swivel and sinker setting. Long nosed, the nickel plated, corrosion-resistant pliers have milled faces for sure grip and side cutting action. They come in two sizes, six-inch and eight-inch, and are encased in a sheath with snap catch.

• Science News Letter, 85:160 March 7, 1964

⚙️ **EIGHT-END SOCKET WRENCH** eliminates searching for the right wrench or socket. A single tool with two swivel ends, each having four socket fittings of different sizes, the wrench does the work of a set of tools. The chrome vanadium steel device is useful for many types of equipment, such as lawnmowers, automobiles, bicycles, tractors, snow blowers and boats.

• Science News Letter, 85:160 March 7, 1964

⚙️ **BENCH TYPE PROTOMETER** permits determining serum protein concentration or urine specific gravity in 30 seconds. Simple to use, only a drop or two of the sample is required to make a determination. The protein grams per 100 milliliters or urine specific gravity can be read directly on the calibrated scale. The instrument has an adjustable eyepiece and its light source can be plugged into any outlet.

• Science News Letter, 85:160 March 7, 1964



⚙️ **SLIP-ON BINOCULAR MAGNIFIER**, shown in photograph, useful for doing fine work in the home or shop, is also handy for doctors in locating splinters and other foreign bodies. The lightweight unit accommodates any head size and stays in place even over glasses, leaving the hands free to work. Making all close work easier, the binoculars magnify about two and a half times.

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⚙️ **AUTO SILL SHIELDS** for either new or old auto door sills are both protective and decorative. The shields, made of metalized aluminum laminated onto vinyl, are undercoated with an adhesive. To apply, the protective backing is removed and the shields pressed onto the cleaned door sills. They will not fade, tarnish, rust or corrode.

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⚙️ **SHOP CADDY** for factories, warehouses or retailers, is constructed with a hydraulic lift capable of raising loads up to a quarter ton. The rugged two-wheel hand truck is ideal for loading and unloading trucks, for stacking boxes or for moving heavy units in an assembly line. Its lifting platform in the down position is at floor level. When loaded, a few strokes of a lever will raise the load to the desired height.

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⚙️ **TEMPERATURE MEASURING DEVICE** for 0 to 1,000 degrees Fahrenheit, operates on the pyroelectric principle and requires no battery or electric power. A simple touch-and-read instrument, it is useful for taking temperatures of surfaces, liquids and penetrable masses. The portable instrument compensates automatically to environmental temperatures, making it usable indoors or outdoors. Four accessory probes are available separately.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Birth Control Pills Effective

➤ **BIRTH CONTROL PILLS**, after eight years of use and study, are the "most effective" method of voluntarily preventing pregnancy, a Los Angeles physician reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 187:562, 1964.

Safety questions still to be answered include possible cause of blood clots in the veins with resulting pulmonary embolism among women taking the pills, although studies so far showed no serious complications.

Long-term safety problems include the possibility of malignancy because of an increased number of genital tumors among strains of mice given very large doses of estrogens, or female hormones, contained in birth control pills.

The new 2-mg Ortho-Novum tablet, recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration, however, is the lowest dosage pill on the market in the U.S., and it is providing equally effective contraception with fewer side effects and at less expense than previously used pills, Dr. Edward T. Tyler reported.

New Help for Old Folks

The new penicillin, ampicillin, is reported capable of fighting two deadly germs that prey on old folks whose defense mechanisms cannot cope with urinary tract infections caused by "gram-negative" bacteria.

"Gram-negative" is a technical term referring to decolorization of bacteria by Gram's solution. *Escherichia coli* and *Proteus mirabilis* were the two gram-negative bacteria that ampicillin showed success in combating, a team of Seattle researchers reported in *JAMA*, 187:555, 1964.

Dr. Kenneth N. Anderson, Roger P. Kennedy, James J. Plorde, Jonas A. Shulman and Robert G. Petersdorf of the University of Washington School of Medicine reported the study, which included 40 patients.

Bristol Laboratories, Syracuse, N. Y., furnished the ampicillin, which is now commercially available in the United States. A U.S. Public Health Service training grant and a research grant from Bristol supported the study.

Visualizing Blood Flow

A technique to diagnose blood clots that can be removed surgically before they cause trouble in the lung has been devised at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, Md.

A radioisotope-scanning technique to visualize blood flow through the lungs is possible with a device called a photoscanner, used to reproduce the radioisotope distribution on X-ray film. Up to now surgery has been held back because reliable diagnosis has been lacking.

Drs. Henry N. Wagner Jr., David C. Sabiston, Masahiro Iio and John G. McAfee, with Jon K. Meyer and James K. Langan reported the scanning technique in *JAMA*, 187:611, 1964. No untoward circulatory effects were observed in studies of man and animals.

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