

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **POCKET SIREN ALARM**, for protection in or out of the home, is a small compact burglar alarm that works on a single flashlight battery. Designed to be carried in purse, hand or pocket, it can also be used in windows and doors in the home. When actuated, it produces a loud intermittent or continuous sound.

• Science News Letter, 85:384 June 13, 1964

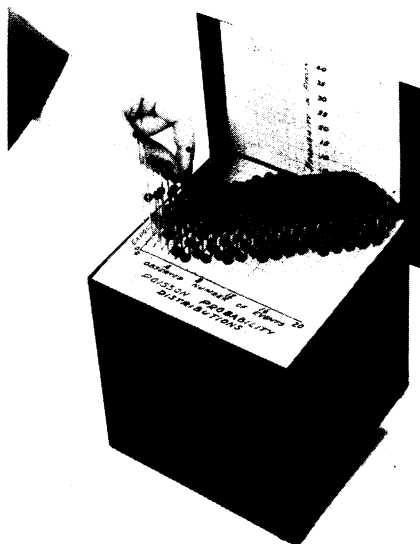
⚙️ **BOAT SPEEDOMETER** can be used on all types of craft including sailboats. The device consists of a graduated plastic tube with an opening on the lower end with brass ball valve and a screw cap on the other. The speedometer is immersed in the water as the boat is traveling and a column of water rises up the tube. To read, the unit is lifted from the water and the speed is read directly on the gauge. To empty, the screw cap is released.

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⚙️ **TRIPLE-TAP ELECTRIC PLUG-IN**, safe and neat, has a tiny built-in neon light that glows continuously making it easy to locate in the dark. Hinged attachment prongs permit the plug to lie flat against the wall out of the way of furniture, with the cords kept close to the wall. It is useful also for attaching to medicine cabinets and other hard-to-reach outlets.

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⚙️ **THREE-DIMENSIONAL PLOTTING KIT**, shown in photograph, for manually



plotting data in space is useful for displaying complex multi-variable phenomena, such as statistical data, trajectories, biological properties, mathematical relations and experimental data. With its plotting volume of 9 x 12 x 6 inches, true three-dimensional representation of any three variables can be made. Pins are inserted into the base with the aid of a guide.

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⚙️ **ADJUSTABLE FRENCH CURVE** for drafting and art work eliminates the need for purchasing a whole set of irregular or French curves. Consisting of nine interlocking layers of clear, thin and flexible butyrate plastic, the device can be easily finger-shaped into any smooth curve desired. The instrument, which measures 28 inches around the perimeter, is held in position by friction between the interlocking layers.

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⚙️ **READY-TO-FEED FORMULA** for infants comes in disposable graduated glass bottles for instant use. The formula, available in 4, 6 and 8 ounces, can be warmed or fed at room temperature right from the bottle using any standard nipple and collar ring and does not need to be kept under refrigeration before use. The infant formula comes also in eight-ounce cans for use with special reusable nipples.

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⚙️ **AUTORADIOGRAPHY KIT** for schools shows students the technique of making pictures from radiation in conjunction with the study of how tracers are used. The kit includes the biological, chemical, physical and mathematical aspects of tracers in addition to uses in health physics and industrial science. The techniques can be expanded to original experiments by students.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Drug Causes Jaundice

➤ **THE DRUG 6-MERCAPTOPURINE**, used for treating patients with leukemia, cancer of the blood-forming organs, can cause jaundice in some patients.

Drs. Morton Einhorn and Israel Davidsohn of the Chicago Medical School and Mount Sinai Hospital, Chicago, found that in 16 of 38 patients treated with the drug jaundice occurred. They reported their study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 188:802, 1964.

In eight of the patients who had jaundice, the trouble cleared up when the drug was discontinued. Physicians are advised to watch for signs of liver injury if 6-mercaptopurine is continued after temporary interruption in jaundice cases.

## Pesticide Balance Seen

DDT in the fat of the general population has apparently not increased in the past 12 years, a study from the Chicago Board of Health reveals. The first studies were made in 1951.

Fat specimens were obtained at autopsy from 282 persons in an investigation into the nature and extent of the storage of chlorinated pesticides in human tissue.

On the average, 72% of the total material derived from DDT that was found in the fat was in the form of a DDT derivative called DDE, which is much less toxic than DDT itself.

The traces of pesticides retained on vegetables, fruits and forage material are so low as to be harmless, the investigators say.

The report appeared in *JAMA*, 188:819, 1964. It was prepared under the direction of Dr. Samuel L. Andelman, Chicago Commissioner of Health, with the aid of Drs. William S. Hoffman, William I. Fishbein and Morten B. Andelman.

## Blind Girls Mature Early

Blind girls menstruate earlier than those who can see, a report in *Science*, 144:1154, 1964, stated. Strangely, it is light that is believed to cause the early maturity. Stimulation of the retina by environmental light that penetrates the human skull even when there is no light perception appears to produce an imbalance in ovulation.

Dr. Leona Zacharias of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, and Dr. Richard J. Wurtman of the National Institute of Mental Health, Bethesda, Md., reported the study.

## Asthma and Insecticides

Asthma patients exposed to phosphorus insecticides used to spray crops suffer relatively minor effects, a study in *JAMA*, 188:807, 1964, showed. Dr. Robert S. Ganalin, Phoenix, Ariz., with G. Allen Mail, University of Arizona, Tucson, and Cipriano Cueto Jr., Communicable Disease Center, Atlanta, Ga., reported the study.

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