

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **BATTERY RECHARGER KIT**, a useful supplement for battery-operated toys and instruments, recharges dry cells from 15 to 50 times using power from a wall socket. The recharger requires no timing and stops charging automatically when the battery is fully charged. The unit, which can charge up to four batteries simultaneously, is equipped with a transformer and is safe to use.

• Science News Letter, 89:48 January 15, 1966

⊗ **PLASTIC MOUNTS** for permanently mounting 35 mm film are stronger and more durable than those made of paper and never become dog-eared or jam the projector. The film can be quickly and easily slipped into the slotted top of the plastic holder, which is flat, exact and lint-free. Sixty plastic mounts come in a plastic box in which the mounted films can be stored.

• Science News Letter, 89:48 January 15, 1966

⊗ **LANTERN HOLDER** designed for use when fishing at night allows a lantern to be held securely and safely in any boat. The holder consists of an easily installed mounting bracket, a 22.5-inch long steel arm and a chain to hold the lamp steady over the water. The upper portion of the hanging lantern comes almost flush with the top of the gunwale eliminating glare.

• Science News Letter, 89:48 January 15, 1966

⊗ **NATURE STUDY AIDS**, shown in photograph, for schools, camps and conser-



vation programs, contain plastic reproductions in color of leaves of various plants, trees and berries and animal tracks. The units, arranged by subjects, such as Introduction to Plants, Tree Identification and Introduction to Tracks and Tracking, are suitable for elementary to secondary grades. Plastic casts and clay impressions can be made from the easy-to-clean flexible plastic models. Plates and information sheets are included for each subject.

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⊗ **STUDY LAMP** lessens eyestrain and helps increase study efficiency. The lamps which are equipped with a metal cone or a prismic refractor set at the base of the bulb gathers up the light previously wasted at the base of the lamp and redirects it evenly to the work surface. It provides at least 70 footcandles to a work area of 14 by 12 inches, and minimizes glare and lack of illumination in shadow areas.

• Science News Letter, 89:48 January 15, 1966

⊗ **TAPE PRINTER KIT** makes rubber stamps quickly and easily without needless delays. Useful in office, plant or home, the device is lightweight and compact and fits into the palm of the hand. The user dials the letters desired and squeezes the handle to print while a press of a button cuts the tape. The special rubber tape is then mounted on a stamp holder provided in the kit. An ink pad is also included.

• Science News Letter, 89:48 January 15, 1966

⊗ **STORY BOOK HOUSE** will provide hours of pleasure to young children. Made in the form of a viewer that is shaped like a house with a cast of tiny characters outside, the child looks through a window on a scene from a fairy tale. With each push of a button the scene changes in sequence. Eight full-color scenes are included. Four different story book houses are available—Cinderella, Snow White, Sleeping Beauty and Hansel and Gretel.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Warning on Fungus Drug Sounded

➤ **PREGNANT WOMEN** should not be given the oral drug called griseofulvin used to fight fungus infections, at least until more is known about whether or not it causes congenital defects.

This warning appeared in *The Medical Letter* 7:1, 1965, which also advised that the most recent version of the drug is more effective and less expensive than the original one. Therefore, it would be "in the public interest" if the manufacturers withdrew the early formulations from the market.

The three manufacturers of griseofulvin, Ayerst, McNeil and Schering, each offer it in two formulations. Griseofulvin is the only drug given orally that is effective in the treatment of superficial fungal infections of the skin resistant to direct skin treatment.

TB Vaccine Tried Against Leprosy

A tuberculosis vaccine is being tested for a new role against leprosy.

Promising results are foreseen in the largest controlled trial of vaccine against leprosy in Africa, using the TB vaccine B.C.G., short for *Bacillus Calmette-Guerin*.

The trial reported from Uganda in the *British Medical Journal*, Jan. 1, 1966, included 17,397 children, all relatives or contacts of known leprosy patients.

The prevalence of leprosy in Uganda increases to a peak at ages

10 to 14 years, and it is hoped that the vaccinated children can be observed until they are at least 15 years old.

Similar trials in Malaya, in New Guinea and in Burma are being watched with great interest, since only eight percent of leprosy patients in Eastern Uganda, where the trials were reported, have "lepromatous leprosy." The other cases are tuberculoid leprosy.

Dr. J. A. Kinnear Brown and M. M. Stone reported the Uganda study, with Dr. Ian Sutherland of the Medical Research Council, London.

Beagle Bleeders Help Research

Help with research applicable to man is seen in a report on a colony of beagles with classic hemophilia housed on the campus of Oklahoma State University, Stillwater. The dogs are available for research elsewhere.

The colony is supported by a resource grant from the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., and was reported in *Science*, 150:1766, 1965. Investigators interested in obtaining the animals for basic or applied research are invited to contact either the College of Veterinary Medicine at Stillwater, or the School of Medicine, Oklahoma City.

All the animals in the colony have documented clinical and laboratory evidence of Factor VIII deficiency, which has been shown to be functionally similar to the disorder in man.

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