

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1260 for sources of new things described. Send a self-addressed envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **CHECK PROTECTOR** that helps prevent forgery perforates checks easily and effectively. The unit consists of a perforating wheel attached to the cap of a ball point pen and a perforating plate incorporated in a checkbook cover. To perforate, the check is placed on the plate and the wheel rolled across its surface. Complete instructions are included.

• Science News Letter, 86:96 August 8, 1964

⚙️ **LIQUID SUN SHIELD** useful in factories, institutions, workshops and industrial buildings reduces glare and heat from the sun. A bluish-green tinted virtually transparent liquid that can be painted on windows, the shield increases the comfort of the workers or occupants without eliminating the view through the window. The liquid may be applied to any window with brush, roller or spray gun. It is easily removed with ordinary paint remover.

• Science News Letter, 86:96 August 8, 1964

⚙️ **PLANT FOOD STICK** placed in the soil near a plant helps it grow and flourish. The sticks saturated with plant-growing foods are slipped into the soil once a month. Normal watering releases the growth stimulants, providing an easy and effective way to feed the plants that eliminates worry about over- or under-feeding.

• Science News Letter, 86:96 August 8, 1964

⚙️ **GOLF CLUB COVER**, shown in photo-



graph, completely protects wood from wear due to weather and contact. The hinged plastic protector, padded on the inside to keep clubs from becoming scuffed and scratched, covers the head and several inches of the shaft of the golf club. Available in green, brown or maroon, the covers are designed so that the clubs can be clipped to the bag individually or laced together into a group.

• Science News Letter, 86:96 August 8, 1964

⚙️ **CONSTELLATION SLIDES** for students and laymen give clear, sharp, distortion free pictures of the popular constellations. Five seasonal and regional star map slides that identify the individual constellations and relate them to other objects in the sky are included in the set of 46 black and white 35 mm slides. Simple instructions for calculating locations of constellations also come with the set.

• Science News Letter, 86:96 August 8, 1964

⚙️ **GRILL THERMOMETER** helps prevent burnt steaks, chops and other meats in outdoor grilling. The stainless steel grill guide, with dial encased in heat-resistant glass, is calibrated for temperatures similar to those recommended for standard indoor cooking. The thermometer, placed on the grill after the coals are ash gray, helps maintain the correct temperature throughout the cooking period. Instructions and temperature guide are included.

• Science News Letter, 86:96 August 8, 1964

⚙️ **DEER BUGGY** can carry 200 pounds of game, tents or gear. Useful to sportsmen, the easily assembled buggy is made of heavy gauge aluminum tubing and has 10-inch wheels with wide tires. Its sturdy canvas cover provides a pouch for equipment and also acts as a knapsack for carrying materials. The buggy can be used also as a seat for hunting or resting.

• Science News Letter, 86:96 August 8, 1964

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## AMA Clears Charcoal-Broiled Food

► **CHARCOAL-BROILED FOOD** is not harmful to man, Dr. Philip L. White, secretary of the American Medical Association Council on Foods and Nutrition says.

This should quiet the fears of backyard picnickers and patrons of charcoal-type steak houses who were alarmed by a report in Science (see SNL 86:52 July 25, 1964) that said cancer-producing chemicals resulted from this type of cooking.

The smoke that rises from outdoor grills is mostly from partially burned fat, Dr. White explained in *Today's Health*, Aug. 1964.

"It has been shown that fat, partially decomposed by heat, produces substances suspected of being hazardous," he said. "However, no incidences of harm traceable to food have been reported in man."

## Cold Used in Pituitary Surgery

A new ultra-cold method for surgically destroying pituitary tissue with a minimum amount of risk to the brain has been developed.

The new method involves the use of a small vacuum-type tube that can be cooled to 299 degrees below zero Fahrenheit. The cold instrument is then inserted through the side of the head into the pituitary gland at the base of the brain.

The new treatment was reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 89:255, 1964, by Drs. Robert W. Rand, Alfred

M. Dashe, Donald E. Paglia, Louis W. Conway, and David H. Soloman, all of the School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles. Dr. Conway is now at the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond.

## Antihistamines Safe for Long-Term Use

No harm from the prolonged use of antihistamine drugs to control a running nose, or rhinorrhea, during the ragweed season has been reported, Dr. Leo H. Criepp of Pittsburgh said in the questions and answers section of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 189:336, 1964.

## Infant Death Rate Records Differ

Statistics comparing the death of babies in the United States and Sweden, or other smaller countries, should be re-examined and carefully interpreted, the AMA Committee on Maternal and Child Care advised in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* 189:321, 1964.

Variations in the practice of reporting data among the Netherlands, Sweden, Finland, the United Kingdom and Ireland present problems in interpretation.

Sweden, for example, with its homogeneous ethnic, socio-economic structure, should not be directly compared with a vast heterogeneous nation such as the United States which has been said to have a higher infant death rate than Sweden.

• Science News Letter, 86:96 August 8, 1964