

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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✿ **PORTABLE TAPE RECORDER** is a cordless, transistorized device in which tape cartridges can be inserted in a single motion for instant, automatic recording. Simple to operate, a single master control starts, stops, winds and rewinds the tape. Useful to students for recording lectures, and to businessmen, music lovers or doctors, it weighs only three pounds with batteries and can be worn over the shoulder like a camera.

• Science News Letter, 87:208 March 27, 1965

✿ **MAGNIFIER ILLUMINATOR** that can be clipped into a pocket has a four-lens system that magnifies the object 20 times and lights up the image at the same time. Graduations located between the lens are superimposed directly over the magnified image for direct reading of size in inches between minus 0.16 to 0.002 or in 0.10 mm. It is useful in metal and finishing trades for examining or measuring small parts or locating defects.

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✿ **PLASTIC BALER TWINE** has high bulk and tensile strength while light in weight. Especially useful to farmers, it is resistant to rot, insects and moisture and is not attractive to rodents. Soft and easy to handle, its knots do not slip or loosen or require repeated tightening. Its uniform thickness simplifies stringing of pennants and banners for displays, resisting stretching or shrinking in dampness or heat.

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✿ **PLASTIC CONTAINER**, shown in photograph, that keeps food hot or cold for school lunch or picnics is double-walled and has a convenient built-in polypropylene sipping straw. A plastic lid that fits snugly to the top of the colorful 12-ounce container prevents the contents from spilling. Resistant to breakage and rough handling, it is also suitable for holding baby's formula. The container can be chilled or boiled and is easy to clean.

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✿ **WORK PIECE HOLDERS** for drill presses provide firm, rigid support for flat or round materials. The "mules," which have parallel V-blocks on each end, are made of cast semi-steel. They do not tip or fall as loose parallels do, thus helping to eliminate accidents. The work pieces are held well above the table, preventing drill press damage.

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✿ **CHROMATOGRAPHY MEDIUM** of potassium siliceous fibers makes separations in 15 minutes to one hour. Recommended for analyses of amino acids, carbohydrates, lipids and dyes, the media sheets come ready to use. No special equipment is required. To make a separation, a spot of the substance to be tested is placed on a strip which is suspended with one end dipping into the solvent placed in a mason jar or chromatography tank.

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✿ **VINYL WALLCOVERING** that comes in six different murals such as "Windjammer Wharf," "Paris in the Morning," and "Castle" provides scenic walls in the home at low cost. The scenes, silk-screened with color-fast vinyl inks on vinyl-treated wallpaper, come in various textures and colors and are completely washable. Easy to handle by the do-it-yourselfer, each wallcovering comes in nine-foot strips about 30 inches wide and will cover a 112-square-foot area.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Human Cancer Link in Makeup

➤ **PROOF** that virus can cause cancer in monkeys may well be proof that virus also causes cancer in humans.

This parallel is drawn because monkeys are similar to humans in their susceptibility to cancer.

Soviet scientists reported infecting three species of monkeys with Rous sarcoma virus, a chicken virus that previously had been shown to cause tumors in rats, rabbits, hamsters, guinea pigs and mice. Two years ago, one species of monkey, *Macaca mulatta*, was shown to develop cancer through injections of the same virus in U.S. experiments.

Reporting in *Nature*, 205:1123, 1965, the Soviets said injections of Rous sarcoma virus into newborn *Macacus rhesus*, *Macacus nemestrinus* and *Papio hamadryas* monkeys showed that all three soon developed cancer.

Dr. L. A. Zilber, B. A. Lapin and F. I. Adgighytov of the Gamaleya Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology, Moscow, and the Institute of Experimental Pathology and Therapy, Sukhumi, reported the findings.

RNA Found in Infected Bacteria

New chemical weapons against viruses appear possible as a result of the discovery of an enzyme essential for the reproduction of an infective bacterial virus.

The new enzyme does not appear to play a role in normal cell function. It was found in bacteria infected by viruses that contain ribonucleic acid, or RNA, and represents a significant step in basic knowledge of RNA and its role in the transmission of genetic information.

Little has been known about RNA viruses as compared with those that contain deoxyribonucleic acid, or DNA.

Drs. Joseph T. August, Lucille Shapiro and Lillian Eoyang, all of the Department of Molecular Biology, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, New York, reported their finding in the *Journal of Molecular Biology*, Feb., 1965. Their study is jointly supported by grants from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences and the National Science Foundation. The Institute, at Bethesda, Md., is one of the National Institutes of Health.

Rare Tumor Kills Workers

Ten deaths among asbestos-insulation workers in New York and New Jersey have been reported caused by a rare malignant tumor, diffused mesothelioma.

Drs. Irving J. Selikoff and Jacob Churg of Mount Sinai Hospital, New York, and Dr. E. Cuyler Hammond, director, statistical research section, American Cancer Society, reported these findings in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 272:560, 1965.

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