

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **BASEBALL GAME** especially suitable for small children allows them to hit the ball most of the time and eliminates the need for adult pitching. The set includes a plastic ball, a bat and an adjustable steel tee that will stand rugged abuse. The plastic ball is placed on the tee, which is adjusted to the height of the batter for easy hitting. The game can be played by any number of persons.

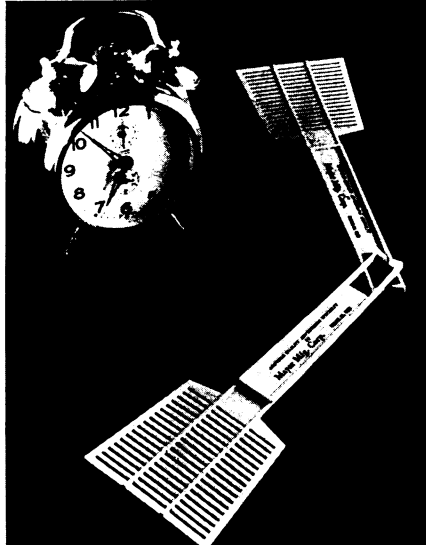
• Science News Letter, 87:336 May 22, 1965

⚙️ **ATOMIC SCIENCE LABORATORY** allows the safe teaching of the behavior of the atom and the basic principles of nuclear science at elementary and high school levels. The unit is a complete teaching system consisting of an atom counter, experiment board, sealed radioactive source and radiation absorbers. Separate teacher and student manuals are included.

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⚙️ **GARDEN FLOODER** is a lawn and garden irrigating device that allows flooding of large areas without excessive runoff, erosion or evaporation. Made of polyethylene, the flooder is designed so that water flow is slowed without greatly reducing the volume. It fits any hose coupling and will not rust or corrode.

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⚙️ **FEATHERWEIGHT FLYSWATTERS**, shown in photograph, are made of lightweight polyethylene and come in aqua or sand color. Handy in patio, garden or on picnic grounds, the flyswatters are flexible and easy to handle. They can be readily cleaned and washed. The flat handle can be imprinted with a company's name for an advertising giveaway item.

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⚙️ **HARNESS LIGHT** protects dogs at night. A red light attached securely to a harness that is worn by the animal flashes as the animal walks in the dark. The warning light will cause cars to slow down or stop, preventing the dog from being hit. Also, a dog running loose in the dark can be readily located. Batteries are included with the set that is available in several sizes.

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⚙️ **FUEL FLOW CONNECTOR** makes it possible to feed fuel to the engine of a boat from different tanks without disconnecting lines or spilling fuel. Connection can be made with up to three tanks to supply one or two outboard motors. The valves are attached to a transparent plastic tube that allows the flow of fuel to be observed.

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⚙️ **REFRIGERATOR AIR PURIFIER** traps gaseous odors in the refrigerator, keeping the air pleasant and preventing odors from penetrating the food. About three and a half inches high and two inches in diameter, the perforated steel purifier contains eight highly porous membranes packed with activated charcoal. The purifier itself remains odor-free and has a service life of about six months.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Insulin Demand Lessened by Fasting

➤ **FASTING LESSENS** the diabetic's demand for insulin.

Although it is well known that obesity may lead to development of diabetes mellitus, and that weight reduction appears to cure the disease in many cases, there has been some confusion over insulin activity in the obese. Insulin injections control the disease, but measurement of the insulin-like activity in diabetic obese persons has shown normal or high levels.

Groups of severely obese patients were studied by scientists in the Postgraduate Medical School of London in an attempt to clarify some of the factors affecting their insulin activity. Both diabetic and nondiabetic persons were included, for comparison.

After the experiment the insulin-like activity levels and the glucose-tolerance curves of the diabetics became more like those of the nondiabetic obese patients.

Drs. Russell Fraser, J. Brown, I. Trayner and N. Samaan reported the study in the *British Medical Journal*, May 1, 1965. Dr. Samaan is at present in the department of medicine, Lakeside Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio.

Incurables Want Truth

A child should always be told the truth, even when he has such an incurable disease as leukemia.

This was the conclusion of two researchers who interviewed 51 children between the ages of nine and 20, hospitalized for treatment of acute leukemia (blood cancer) by the medical branch of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md.

With the cooperation of parents, each child over nine was told the diagnosis of his illness.

Typical of the attitude of these children toward truth as opposed to secrecy was that of an 11-year-old who told her mother, "I know there is no cure for leukemia but at least I'm glad you told me what I have."

Instead of being told that a child who died had merely been moved to another part of the hospital or had gone home these children were told the truth and seemed glad to be told.

Joel Vernick of the NIH clinical center social work department, and Dr. Myron Karon, senior investigator and chief pediatrician of the medical branch reported their findings in *American Journal of Diseases of Children* 109:393, 1965.

Barbiturate Poisoning Treatment Improved

Use of an artificial kidney in extreme cases of barbiturate poisoning is now saving lives, a report in the *British Medical Journal* May 8, stated.

Forced diuresis through injections of mannitol, a drug that gets rid of barbiturates in the body by causing large flows of urine, is also used, and makes it unnecessary to use the kidney machine for hemodialysis.

Two physicians at the King's College Hospital, London, Drs. H. A. Lee and A. C. Ames, said that only 15 of 181 patients admitted to the hospital over an 18-month period required hemodialysis, and that when it was given, forced diuresis and alkinization were continued.

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