

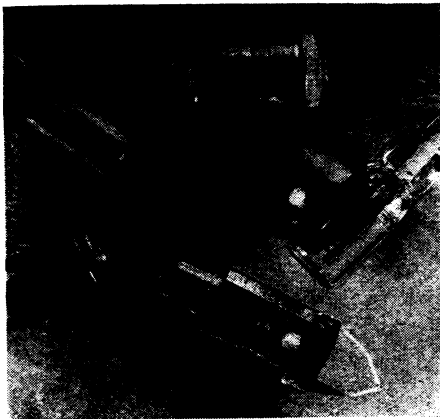
• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1377 for source information. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

⊗ **BATTERY WALL CLOCK** is convenient in cabins, cottages, boats, or for camping, as well as in the home, since it requires no electricity. Measuring 10 inches in diameter, the clock has a walnut-finish face with large white Roman numbers, and ornate cut-out hands. Powered by standard batteries (not included) it is immune to electricity blackouts.

⊗ **GUITAR CONVERTER** is a new battery-operated device that makes any guitar an electric guitar. Easily clipped on guitar or ukelele, the unit enables a person indoors or outdoors to play the instrument and sing over stereo or any FM radio. The converter eliminates the need for amplifiers and long cords, and requires no license to use.

⊗ **NEW HIGH-INTENSITY LAMP** can rotate in a complete circle and is adjustable to five degrees of light intensity. Provided with a 17-inch arm jointed like a cricket's leg and a non-tipping base, the lamp is especially useful to architects and draftsmen as well as to students. A slot is provided on the lamp for mounting on the wall.



⊗ **MINIATURE GLOW LAMPS**, shown in photograph, for industrial applications are designed for use as indicators in electrical circuits and are smaller and more efficient than others now available. Two of the new lamps, only $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch long, are suitable for use as indicators in electrical circuits. The others are designed for use as indicator lights in computer panels and telephone button lights. Their flat-end construction provides brighter and more even illumination.

⊗ **PHOTOCONTROL UNIT** for automatically controlling outdoor lighting includes a light level selector for ranges of from 2 to 50 footcandles. The on-off action, which is activated by the environmental light, responds to the pre-set light level. Especially useful for advertising signs or safety lighting, the selector can be adjusted by the user for early or later turn-on.

⊗ **FRACTION-DECIMAL CALCULATOR** is a time saver which will add or subtract fractions and decimals in seconds. Made of aluminum, the calculator is easy to handle and operate, light in weight and can be carried in the pocket. Complete instructions are included.

⊗ **TWIST LOCK HOOK**, useful for hooking boats to trailers or to docks, has a closed design that prevents accidental disengagement, as often happens with the ordinary S hook when the attachment rope slackens. Made of steel and having a tensile strength of 1,800 pounds, the hook is easily connected or disconnected with one hand. It is also suitable for mooring lines to buoys.

• Doctors Are Reading •

TB Treated at Home

➤ **AT-HOME** treatment of tuberculosis patients is playing an increasing role in control of the disease in Canada. The patient is kept in the sanatorium just until he is non-infectious, and is then released and treated on an outpatient basis.

This practice shortened the average sanatorium stay for TB patients by 40% between 1954 and 1964.

Indications are that home treatment is effective and that the practice will continue to expand as outpatient facilities improve and grow.

The trend was reported by Dr. G. F. Kincade of Vancouver, B.C., in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, 95:818, 1966.

Aspirin Causes Anemia After 50 Years

➤ **THE CASE** of a 79-year-old woman who consumed aspirin, or acetylsalicylic acid, for 50 years because of headaches and a recent leg ulcer is reported in The Lancet, 2:768, 1966. Although she had aplastic anemia, or pancytopenia, a bone-marrow disorder that is often fatal, she recovered a normal white blood cell count after stopping the drug.

Another woman, aged 42, was reported taking an overdose of aspirin over a period of years because of marital problems. She had tried several sedatives and pain killers, and had settled on large daily doses of aspirin.

Her leucocyte, or white blood cell, count fell from 5,400 to 3,400 per cubic millimeters. Her leucocytes went back to a normal level after aspirin was discontinued.

Three other women who had taken long-term overdoses of self-administered aspirin were reported suffering from pancytopenia, but recovered after stopping the drug.

The amounts of aspirin taken by the five women for up to 50 years ranged from 1.5 to 20 kilograms, but doctors had no way of knowing exactly how many tablets a day they had averaged.

Aspirin tablets contain 5 grains each of the drug, which figures out at 60,000 tablets in 50 years.

"It seems that the claim that acetylsalicylic acid is devoid of any hemotoxic effect can no longer be upheld," the researchers concluded.

Reporting the findings were Drs. L. Wijnja, J. A. M. Snijder and H. C. Nieweg of the University of Groningen, the Netherlands.

Asthma Is Not Outgrown

➤ **ADULTS** who suffered from asthma as children, but were symptom-free for an average of six years, still could develop a recurrence of their symptoms, a British study showed.

Comparing the ventilatory capacity of eight symptom-free adults with that of a group of healthy adults and a group of asthmatic adults, the investigators concluded that the symptom-free, one-time asthmatics are in a latent phase of asthma, in which they might or might not remain for an indefinite period.

The study was reported by Drs. R. H. Trefor Jones and R. S. Jones in the British Medical Journal, 2:976, 1966.