

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1287 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.

☸ **MAGNET MODEL** to illustrate the molecular nature of magnetism in classroom or laboratory is especially designed for use with standard overhead projection units. The model consists of 24 bar magnets, each 19 mm long with north poles painted red, mounted on needle-point pivots to permit free turning. The base plate fits directly on the projection stage.

• Science News Letter, 87:112 February 13, 1965

☸ **ROLL-OUT CAR-TOP CARRIER**, suitable for sportsman, camper or homeowner, makes loading and unloading heavy objects from the top of the car easy and convenient. Made with metal bars that slide along a track and extend over the side of the car, the roll-out model fits all standard cars with rain drains. Easy to install and remove, it has a carrying capacity of 600 pounds.

• Science News Letter, 87:112 February 13, 1965

☸ **PORTABLE TABLE LAMP** for emergencies operates off a six-volt battery, taking the place of candles and matches in case of power failure. Also suitable for boats and mobile homes, porch or patio, it is 13 inches high with a shade 9 x 5 x 5 inches in size. It is designed with two sockets, one using 12 or 120 volt bulbs and the other a #1651 bulb. Battery, #1651 bulb and power cord come with the lamp.

• Science News Letter, 87:112 February 13, 1965

☸ **ROSEWOOD CANDLE**, shown in photograph, for table, mantle or buffet, gives



a smokeless and odorless flame. Operating on butane gas, drippings of wax and replacement of candles are eliminated. Nineteen inches tall and made of genuine rosewood, the candle has a gun-metal base and its flame can be raised or lowered as desired.

• Science News Letter, 87:112 February 13, 1965

☸ **INSULATING GRAPHITE TAPE** for manufacturers is a flexible material that can be molded into different shapes for various components as required. The tape, which has a high insulating value of 5000 degrees Fahrenheit, shows no increase in thermal conductivity at high temperatures as do other insulation materials. It is produced in widths up to five inches and in thicknesses from 0.005 to 0.010 inch.

• Science News Letter, 87:112 February 13, 1965

☸ **TAMPERING DETECTION DEVICE**, suitable for use on all types of equipment, packaging and shipping applications, is molded of acetal resin and resembles a small padlock. Weighing less than 1/60 of an ounce, it is easily attached, but once locked, can be removed only with destructive force, thus providing a secure seal and visual evidence of any tampering. Seals can be custom-made at additional cost.

• Science News Letter, 87:112 February 13, 1965

☸ **ELECTRIC OUTBOARD MOTOR** powered by a 12-volt auto battery is especially designed to fit the trolling and bait casting needs of fishermen. Silent and smooth in operation, the propeller of the motor is encased in the propulsion unit, preventing weed fouling and broken shafts. The motor will continue unattended at any desired speed. Safe and easy to operate, a simple turn of the handle will start or stop the motor immediately.

• Science News Letter, 87:112 February 13, 1965

• Doctors Are Reading •

Phenylalanine Counteracts Chloromycetin

► **THE BONE MARROW** of five infected babies and young children, temporarily harmed by treatment with the powerful but potentially dangerous drug, Chloromycetin, was brought back to normal by the protein product, phenylalanine.

The possible regular use of phenylalanine at the same time Chloromycetin is given was suggested by Boston researchers in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 272:180, 1965, as a preventive.

The producer of Chloromycetin, Parke, Davis & Company, Detroit, assisted in supporting the research. The pharmaceutical company has been aware of the possible danger in using it, but its value in treating serious infections is recognized by the medical profession. Parke, Davis lists warnings and precautions on the use of Chloromycetin in *Physicians' Desk Reference*.

Phenylalanine, one of the most important amino acids, has been found abnormal in babies with phenylketonuria, an inherited biochemical defect, which, if untreated, leads to mental retardation.

What happened in Boston was that bone marrow specimens examined showed "vacuoles" or clear spaces similar to those observed in phenylalanine deficiency. The vacuoles disappeared after treatment for 48 to 96 hours with 100 milligrams of L-phenylalanine. In the meantime the infections, some of which were caused by *Escherichia coli*, intestinal organisms, cleared up and there were no deaths.

Drs. D. Ingall, J. D. Sherman, F. Cockburn and R. Klein re-

ported the study, which originated in the departments of pediatrics, Boston University School of Medicine and Boston City Hospital, as well as in the Framingham Union Hospital.

RSV May Cause Human Cancer

The same viruses that cause cancer in animals could possibly be the cause of human cancer.

Dr. Giancarlo F. Rabotti of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md., said that he is hopeful of results from Bryan's strain of the Rous sarcoma virus (RSV), which he has used to produce brain tumors in dogs. Preliminary work on hamsters with Bryan's strain is reported in *Science*, 147:504, 1965.

"In the search for viruses that may be causing human cancer," Dr. Rabotti said, "three approaches are being made."

The National Cancer Institute approach in the present research is to take a strain of the well known virus—causing tumors in birds, which is RSV, and giving it in large doses to mammals such as the hamsters, rabbit and dog—gradually going higher and higher in the mammalian species. The fact that mammalian cancer has been induced with Bryan's strain for the first time indicates that this strain of RSV could eventually be found to cause human cancer. Dr. Rabotti was assisted in his work with hamsters by Drs. Wirtley A. Raine and Richard L. Sellers. They produced brain tumor in these animals.

• Science News Letter, 87:112 February 13, 1965