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ing your car upside down and shaking it, there is no way in the world to dislodge that nut. A computer would have taken hours to work out the complicated trajectory for the nut to get there, but the nut found the spot without hesitation or assistance from anyone. Undoubtedly the nut must have a very clever but nasty brain to achieve this. Come to think of it, in the light of this, to call someone a "nut" could actually well be a real compliment!!

And what about pills. They too have several vile tricks up their sleeve. It starts with getting them out of the bottle. As they can obviously read what is written on the bottle, they know exactly how many pills you need at a time and they will spare no effort to counteract your attempts to get the right number of pills out of the bottle. If you need two or more pills, only one pill will roll out and all the others will jam inside the bottle forming a bottleneck at the neck of the bottle. No shaking in the world will dislodge them anymore. Your only solution is then to stab your pills to death by poking a knife into the bottle.

But if you need only one pill at the time, nothing stops a whole cascade of pills from rolling out of the bottle. Now pills have an uncanny sense of direction. Although they have never been to your home before, they have sized up, in the fraction of a second it took them to emerge from the bottle, the layout of your home. Any stupid object would have rolled into the middle of the room, but your wily pills immediately picked the most inaccessible place available: in the lounge they would roll under-

neath the sideboard or the sofa and finish up, out of sight, in the gap between your carpet and the wall; in the kitchen, the only logical place for a pill worth its name to roll under is of course the fridge where it may well give your cockroaches something to gnaw on for a few days.

Final remark: it does not matter how thin a pill is, it will never fall on its side. It always rolls and, for such a small object, the speed at which it rolls and its incredible sense of direction clearly indicate that it must possess a brain far superior and more devious than our own.

And finally let us look at the keys. Keys are undoubtedly the Houdini's of the gadget world. They possess a supernatural brain that surpasses in cunningness the brains of any past, present and future human geniuses. No illusionist, magician or sorcerer could ever come close to match their tricks of which we will only mention a few.

#### PERMUTATION.

You put a dozen or so keys in a certain order on a key-ring. When you pick up the key-ring again, no key is in the same place anymore. The large key is no longer next to the small key. They all have changed their positions. How did they do it, you will never know.

#### INDIVIDUAL DISAPPEARANCE.

You look for one specific key on your key-ring. Mysteriously it has disappeared. You finger over other key on the ring a dozen times over, but the very key you want is not there. And just

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**EDITOR:** Henry Sigerist, Travelair, P.O. Box 37-335, Parnell, Auckland, Phone: 377-3285 (bus.) or 473-9011 (home), FAX 302-1099 (bus.)

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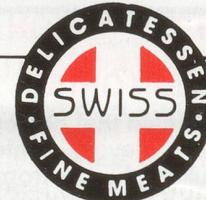
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as you are ready to blow your top, suddenly the key you are looking for reappears, right underneath your thumb as if it had been there all the time. Where did the key go and how did it get back onto the key-ring will remain a mystery for ever.

#### COLLECTIVE DISAPPEARANCE.

You leave a bunch of keys on your mantelpiece from where they promptly disappear only to reappear, much, much later, on the workbench in your garden shed but not until you have searched for them for hours and put your whole house upside down. The "beam me down, Scotty" trick of the old Star Trek where a person or an object is dematerialised in one place and rematerialised in another has been a dream of humanity for many generations but so far has never been achieved. But our clever keys have done it ever since keys had been invented and no one has yet found out how they do it.

Car keys have added another twist to this unique feat. They have a homing instinct built in them. You put your car keys on your night table from where



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