

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **ICE TRAY CADDY** eliminates the need to chip and chop to remove frozen ice cube trays from the freezer. Made of heavy gauge steel and permanently rust-free, the caddy is covered with a thick coating of white plastic that prevents frost from forming, enabling trays to be easily removed. A space saver, it holds four ice trays and fits most cross top freezers.

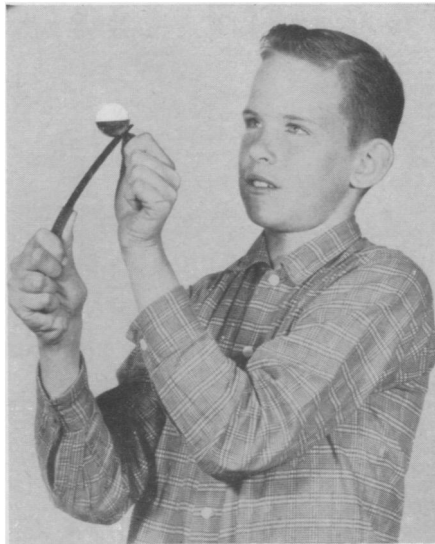
• Science News Letter, 82:296 November 3, 1962

☛ **NON-SKID TIRE** especially designed to combat skidding on snow and ice has a special chopped steel wire strand milled into the tread compound and bonded into place. The surface of the new tire now under test looks like suede and is rough like wire brush. Particularly useful on ice when cars are starting up, braking or cornering, the surface of the tire does not disappear but renews itself as the tire wears.

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☛ **ROOF-REPAIR KIT** for repairing saucer-like depressions on flat roof surfaces contains asbestos fibrous filler, filler binder and a bonding coat. Heavy gravel, sand and cement mixes which tend to overload and collapse depression areas are eliminated. Lightweight, the product can be applied with a minimum of coast and work.

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☛ **FLIPPER ACTION TOY**, shown in the photograph, for children or adults is suitable for indoor or outdoor play. A table tennis ball is placed in the metal cup attached to a steel spring arm. The player can flip the ball high into the air for others to catch, bounce it against the wall or aim it at a target.

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☛ **SPACE ANCHOR** for mounting perforated boards automatically provides the space between the board and wall necessary for the insertion of hooks and hardware. No separate spacer is needed. Molded of tough plastic, it has a three-eighths-inch bushing that keeps the board and wall apart. As the anchor is screwed into place, it expands to lock into position and hold the board securely.

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☛ **FIRST AID KIT** that fits easily into a handbag or pocket consists of a plastic envelope containing two antiseptic-filled sponges sealed in foil and two wrapped adhesive tapes. Ready for immediate use, it is ideal for emergencies at home or at work, or when traveling, fishing or camping.

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☛ **CONDENSATION CONTROLLER** protects metals, chemicals, grains and other materials from rust and other moisture damage. Designed for storage places, pipelines and printing shops, the device automatically turns on heat, dry air or alarm signal when the area or surface temperature and dewpoint come within a pre-set range. Connections only to an AC line and control circuit are required.

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• Doctors are Reading •

Open Heart Surgery Favored

➤ **OPEN HEART** surgery has been found superior to the closed or "blind" technique which is considered one of the greatest surgical advances in the past five years.

The open method which permits unobstructed vision during the operation comes closer to ideal objectives in surgery, five Philadelphia physicians reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 182:268, 1962.

In an experimental study, 200 patients were operated on, using the open-heart method, for a narrowing of the opening on the left side of the heart. There was a mortality of only 6.5 per cent which will be lowered in future operation series because of techniques learned in the study, Drs. Henry T. Nichols, Gumersindo Blanco, Dryden P. Morse, Alberto Adam, and Nicholas Baltazar reported. All are affiliated with Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital and The Albert Einstein Medical Center.

New Pregnancy Test

A new immunological test for pregnancy has been developed which is more sensitive and accurate than current biological tests. In experimental studies reported in *JAMA* by Drs. John B. Henry and William A. Little of the University of Florida College of Medicine, 40 patients in the first three months of pregnancy gave positive reactions with the new test (p. 230). Serum obtained from 32 of these patients for frog tests, widely used at present, gave only 24 positive reactions.

The "latex precipitation" test works on the same hormone as do currently used tests with mice, frogs and rabbits. The new method which involves two reagents, pregnancy antiserum and latex antigen, is simpler than those that use animals in the laboratory.

Value of Steam Baths Questioned

Persons who like to take steam baths for their health seem to be wasting their time, it was reported in *JAMA* (p. 320). Neither the steam room nor the Sauna (a room heated by a stove on which water is sprinkled) provide any definite beneficial effects.

In fact they may be dangerous to older people and those with heart trouble or metabolic disorders. The steam room increases heartbeat and blood pressure, and the high humidity may place a burden on the cardio-pulmonary system.

Stitch Cuts Between Rounds

A Miami plastic surgeon has urged that all boxers' cuts be stitched between rounds to reduce the chance of infection and increase the fairness of the bout.

Dr. D. Ralph Millard Jr. emphasized in a *JAMA* report that unsutured cuts are torn wider as the fight progresses (p. 314). Last July, the surgeon stitched a Miami boxer's cut after the third round of a fight. The fighter continued and the sewn wound withstood the blows.

Airport Medical Program Suggested

Comprehensive medical programs for large airports were recommended "to save lives and reduce suffering."

Dr. Homer L. Reighard, chief medical standards division, Federal Aviation Agency, said that "major aircraft accidents might have been averted, or fatality and disability reduced, by the existence of adequate medical support and surveillance."

Medical provisions for crash rescue and emergencies would also be included in the medical program, Dr. Reighard reported in the *Archives of Environmental Health*, Oct. 1962.

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