

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☸ **BOTTLE RECAPPER** permits the consumer to buy large size bottled beverages and keep what is left over in the bottle fresh for later use. Convenient and economical, the simple device both opens the bottle and recaps it airtight with the original cap. Carbonated beverages are thus prevented from losing their freshness.

• Science News Letter, 82:342 November 24, 1962

☸ **ANTI-FOG SPRAY** is non-flammable and frees windows of steam, mist and fog. Especially useful for automobiles during the fall and winter months, a small amount of the liquid applied to the inside of the windows will prevent fogging. Use on kitchen windows will help prevent rot and rust from condensation.

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☸ **SILICONE-GREASE STICK** useful for lubricating metal, wood, leather, rubber or plastic can be applied directly from a convenient plastic container. The container has a special push-up bottom and a reusable friction cap. The grease stick can be easily stored in kitchen drawer, tool chest or workshop.

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☸ **TIDY RACK**, shown in the photograph, keeps combs, brushes and other hair grooming accessories all in one place, neat and easily accessible. Made of molded plastic,



it also provides space for bobbie pins, hair pins, nail file and razor. It attaches securely to any wall with screws or glue provided. Finished in antique gold and decorated with metalized flowers, it matches any decor.

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☸ **SIGHTING LIGHT** for use in laboratories clips directly onto thermometers, burettes and flowmeters permitting faster, more accurate readings with greater eye comfort. Providing a narrow strip of soft white light three and a half inches long directly behind the tube, the lightweight device supplements poor lighting and overcomes glare reflections. Shields with narrow or wide slits are included.

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☸ **EQUAL-VOLUME GEOMETRIC SOLIDS** are designed to help students learn about three-dimensional spatial perception and help clarify various geometric and other math problems. The set consists of six sturdy orange-colored plastic shapes—rectangle, cube, sphere, cylinder, cone and square pyramid—each of which displaces one cubic inch of liquid.

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☸ **MICROSCOPE SCREEN** allows simultaneous viewing and explanation of microscopic specimens. Suitable for school, laboratory or hospital, the screen may be rotated through a complete 360-degree horizontal plane for showing to large groups. The four-inch screen attaches easily to the exit-optic housing of any monocular or trinocular microscope.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

German Measles Vaccine Possible

► **IMMUNIZATION** against the dangers of German measles (rubella), which causes deformity in babies if mothers get the disease in early pregnancy, is possible as a result of isolating the rubella virus, according to a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 182:663, 1962.

Abnormalities, which can affect 50 per cent of live-born babies if the mother's infection occurs in the first four weeks of pregnancy, include combinations of congenital heart disease, cataracts, deafness and mental deficiency. A large number of abortions and stillbirths also are caused by German measles.

Drs. John L. Sever and Gilbert M. Schiff, with Renee G. Traub, all of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, Bethesda, Md., reported on studies showing that the rubella virus could be recovered from the great majority of military recruits and children with German measles in several geographic locations. They have not yet developed a preventive vaccine, but they said this might be accomplished.

Breast Cancer Treatment

Fourteen women and one man with far-advanced cancer of the breast benefited temporarily from a new treatment combining injections of two female sex hormones, three University of Chicago professors reported in JAMA (p. 632).

This was the first report of clinical treatment with the combined hormones, estradiol and progesterone, although previous experiments extinguished 52 per cent of animal cancers. Drs. Richard L. Landau, Edward N. Ehrlich and Charles Huggins, who reported

the study, warned that the success of the treatment was limited, although in some cases the improvement was dramatic.

Kidney Failure Corrected

Eight seriously ill patients have recovered from kidney failure as a result of surgery that restored normal circulation to that organ, Drs. George C. Morris Jr., Michael E. DeBakey and Denton A. Cooley of Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, reported in JAMA (p. 609).

Circulation was restored to the narrow artery by establishing a bypass through use of part of another artery or an artificial artery segment. All patients had high blood pressure, which was also corrected or significantly reduced.

Wrinkle Remover Mistrusted

Women buying products containing extract of cattle placenta to remove facial wrinkles might as well use any good skin-softening cold cream, Dr. Joseph B. Jerome, secretary of the AMA Committee on Cosmetics, told a doctor questioning the validity of claims for the new cosmetic. In JAMA (p. 707) Dr. Jerome pointed out that all women trying out the wrinkle remover were advised to apply a lubricating cream, but that no "control" group using a cold cream only had been set up for comparison.

Dr. Jerome also said it "appears inexcusable for any manufacturer to make available a cosmetic product utilizing a crude raw material such as placenta extract." He doubts the existence of "so-called biogenic stimulants" to remove wrinkles inasmuch as they have not been isolated from the extract.

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