

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **GLASS BLOWING SET** for home hobbyists and science students is inexpensive and easy to use. Included in the kit are an ample supply of glass, a propane torch that supplies the high temperatures necessary for working glass, dark glasses, carbon paddle and flaring tool, asbestos workbench pad and a glass blowing manual.

• Science News Letter, 82:360 December 1, 1962

⊗ **WALL MIRROR KIT** permits the homeowner to install his own antique mirrored walls economically. Each kit contains 12 copper back glass mirrors 12 inches square that can be mounted directly on walls or doors without drilling, cutting or trimming. The kit comes complete with mastic and instructions.

• Science News Letter, 82:360 December 1, 1962

⊗ **DISHWASHING PAPER TOWEL**, an aid to housewives, is detergent-impregnated paper that comes in a dispenser roll. The desired amount of toweling is torn off the roll and rich suds are produced immediately when the towel is placed in a pan of hot water, thus providing a fresh cloth and soapy water at the same time. Hand-protecting softener is combined in the towel.

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⊗ **ALL-PURPOSE KITCHEN TOOL** shaped like a straight-edged spoon, shown in the photograph, can be used to drain and



mix food, scrape pans and chop vegetables. Its sharp cutting edge is suitable for slicing fruits and vegetables, while two elongated openings in the center of the tool serve as bottle cap removers. Made of stainless steel, it will not discolor or absorb odors.

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⊗ **PHYSICAL FITNESS GAME** for the whole family can be played indoors in the recreation room or outdoors. Called Joko, the game consists of four light plastic foam discs that are fitted to the hand by means of an elastic band and a lightweight plastic ball similar to a table tennis ball. The ball can be hit against the wall, back and forth between the players or bounced on the ground.

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⊗ **HEART-SOUND MICROPHONE** is an improved electronic stethoscope pickup device to detect heart sounds and other sound vibrations in human and animal tissue. The sounds detected may be transmitted through loudspeakers, oscilloscopes or graph and tape recorders. It is also suitable for use in research in respiration, hearing fetal heart sounds and group teaching.

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⊗ **INFORMATION RETRIEVAL SYSTEM** consists of cards for individual research files that permit the unique needs of the user to completely control the file. The document to be scheduled is numbered serially and assigned to a file by the user and this number is punched out on the pre-scored and pre-numbered subject card. Holes that show through all of the cards are numbers of relevant documents.

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• Doctors are Reading •

Drugs Cause Cataracts in Arthritics

➤ **SIXTEEN PATIENTS**, 14 with rheumatoid arthritis and two with chronic bronchial asthma, got cataracts after long-term use of corticosteroids, a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 182:719, 1962, states.

Corticosteroids are drugs modeled after the hormones produced by the adrenal cortex, the outer part of the adrenal gland, such as cortisone and hydrocortisone and their derivatives, including prednisone. Caution about prolonged or large dosage has long been sounded because of various harmful side effects occurring in some individuals.

Dr. Conrad L. Giles of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness, Bethesda, Md., with Drs. Gordon L. Mason, Ivan F. Duff and James A. McLean of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, reported this study, which included a total group of 56 patients.

Biomedical Engineering

The new science of biomedical engineering has bridged the long-existing gap between the physical and life sciences, Dr. J. Harold Upton Brown of the National Institutes of Health reported in JAMA (p. 730). Many aspects of biophysics, bionics, cybernetics and medical electronics, not merely design of instruments, formerly thought to be the sole contribution of engineers, are included in the new science.

It is estimated that several hundred such trained scientists will be needed by 1970 in medical, graduate and engineering schools, in government and private research laboratories and in other yet unforeseen positions, Dr. Brown pointed out.

Total of 87 Medical Schools

Osteopaths who have "graduated" to the M.D. degree and the practice of bonafide medicine are serving on the faculty of the former College of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons, Los Angeles, now approved as the California College of Medicine and bringing the total number of approved medical schools in this country to 87.

The University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lexington, also has been accredited recently, leaving no unapproved medical schools in the U.S., JAMA (p. 736) said.

Let Adults Gather Eggs

Small children should be kept out of chicken houses because of the dangers of histoplasmosis (a disease entering the body through the upper respiratory tract), according to advice in the questions and answers section of JAMA (p. 821). Older adults are probably already infected from cleaning debris. Wetting the debris with water or disinfectants may help.

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