

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1174. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **TEMPERATURE INDICATING TAPE** to detect overheating contains rows of dots that turn black irreversibly when subjected to temperatures beyond the preset value. Each row of dots can be set for any temperature from 100 to 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit. The adhesive-backed tape, available in width and temperature according to specifications, is impervious to most shop or launch pad atmospheres.

• Science News Letter, 82:392 December 15, 1962

⊗ **PLASTIC NETTING** extruded from polyethylene has a woven appearance and comes in a variety of patterns and colors. Applications of the plastic mesh include place mats, furniture webbing, swimming pool covers and battery separators. The netting is available in flat rolls or in tubular form for use in packaging or bagging.

• Science News Letter, 82:392 December 15, 1962

⊗ **DRAIN PLUG WRENCH** for auto mechanics speeds up motor block drainage and winterizing of vehicles. The wrench fits pet cocks on any car or truck and has a swivel action particularly useful for working in close quarters. Finished in nickel chrome, the wrench is sized to fit conveniently in the pocket.

• Science News Letter, 82:392 December 15, 1962

⊗ **PILLOW SPEAKER** for hospitals that incorporates a nurse's call button permits



patients to select radio and television programs and regulate their volume. The two and one-half-inch speaker, shown in the photograph, is housed in break-resistant plastic that can be washed or sterilized. When voice communication between patient and nurse is being transmitted through the wall station the speaker cuts off automatically.

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⊗ **CHRISTMAS WINDOW KIT** for making a colorful translucent Christmas window contains two panels that show an old English winter street scene with children caroling beneath a flickering lamp. The panels, 34 by 47 inches in size, are colored with ordinary wax crayons. Easily mounted by taping to the window, the panels can be used together, individually or trimmed to fit smaller windows.

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⊗ **NEW TEACHING MACHINE** for home, school and industry is helpful to parents who wish to supplement a child's school instruction. Learning programs range from elementary through adult courses, while courses for reading and spelling are in preparation. Simple to operate, cards containing questions with five possible answers are inserted into the compact electronic machine. If the correct answer key is pressed, a buzzer and light go on.

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⊗ **MAGNETIC KEY HOLDER** has one part for house keys and trunk key and another for the car ignition key. Bring them together and they are firmly held together by a powerful magnet. Magnetic holder will cling to any ferrous metal surface or metal frame of woman's pocketbook.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Prostate Operations Safe for Heart Cases

➤ MOST ELDERLY men recover from the prostate gland operation even after heart attack, physicians report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 182:908, 1962.

Only nine of 192 patients whose average age was well beyond 60 and all of whom had suffered myocardial infarction died following prostate surgery, Drs. Gershon J. Thompson, Panayotis P. Kelalis and Daniel C. Connolly of the Mayo Clinic and Mayo Foundation, Rochester, Minn., reported.

When "significant obstructive symptoms" are present, the operation should be performed, the Mayo doctors advised, although if recent major surgery has been performed they said it appears safer to postpone prostate surgery two or three months, during which time catheter drainage is used if necessary.

## Surgery in Newborn

Operations on 400 infants with congenital heart disease resulted in the survival of 288, Drs. Denton A. Cooley, Stanley Berman and Felipe A. Santibanez-Woolrich of Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, reported in JAMA (p. 192), pointing out that many needless deaths are occurring. Autopsies performed on 154 infants with abnormal hearts in Texas Children's Hospital, also in Houston, showed that 70 might have been saved by surgery.

## Lung Disease Treatment

At least 23 different treatments are available for the lung disease, pulmonary emphysema, which is estimated to affect some 10 million persons in the United States, Dr. Theodore H. Noehren of the University of Buffalo School of Medicine, Buffalo, N. Y., reported in JAMA (p. 889). A genuine interest in the patient will help doctors determine which of the treatments alone or in combination will be successful.

## Drugs for Stuttering

Although most drugs used to control stuttering have not been successful, dextro amphetamine sulfate (Dexedrine) has helped a few persons and may be tried on healthy patients, a Pennsylvania doctor said in JAMA (p. 976).

## Stomach Ulcers From Caffeine

Hungry rats given large doses of caffeine get stomach ulcers. Drs. C. J. Pfeiffer and G. H. Gass of the Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, reported the study in the Canadian Journal of Biochemistry and Physiology, 40:1473, 1962. They gave caffeine alkaloid through stomach tubes to fasting rats. This caused them to become excited and chase and mutilate their tails.

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