

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **HANDY ZIPPER CLOSER** allows a person to zip up the back zipper of a dress without stretching and struggling. Consisting of a plastic strip 34 inches long and 1/16 of an inch wide, it is provided with a zipper guard which prevents pinching and snagging. The device is attached to the zipper before dressing, pulled straight up and easily removed after the zipper is closed.

• Science News Letter, 82:424 December 29, 1962

⚙️ **BATTERY-POWERED SHAVER** is entirely self-contained, requiring no auxiliary equipment for recharging. It is recharged by simply setting the selector switch on the shaver. Usable with or without a cord, it can be plugged into any AC household outlet. The steel head can be popped up for washing. Models for tough and regular beards and for sensitive skin are available.

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⚙️ **SAFETY GLASS** for use in residential sliding glass doors and bath enclosures and other applications helps reduce injuries. The new tempered glass is impact resistant and similar to automotive safety glass. If it should break under especially heavy impact, it will crumble into small granules rather than large sharp pieces.

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⚙️ **MINIATURE JEEPS**, like the one



shown in the photograph, for preschoolers and first-graders are realistic in detail, having transparent headlights and movable steering wheels. Made of 20-gauge steel used by automobile manufacturers and with durable seat and floor units of molded plastic, they are long lasting and resist breakage. The jeeps roll along easily on rubber tires.

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⚙️ **TWO-COLOR SIGNS** for use in zoos to identify animals outdoors or indoors are resistant to impact and weather. Formed from colored two-layered butyrate sheet, they are lastingly bright and will not fade. They can be back-lighted with 50-watt incandescent bulbs if desired. Continent map signs to indicate the habitat of the animal on display are also available.

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⚙️ **WOBBLE DRIVE TOOL** of chrome-plated steel permits mechanics to reach "hard to get at places" in automobiles. Particularly suited for angular work impossible to reach with a straight drive or without universal joints and hinge handles, the wobble extension will reach many spark plugs and other usually inaccessible fasteners. It is available in three lengths.

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⚙️ **FLASH PHOTO FILTER** is a parabolic shaped plastic screen that helps produce clear photographs with flash camera. Adjustable to any sized reflector, it controls flash lighting, eliminating foreground glare and hot spots and balancing lighting from the front to the rear of the picture. The filter can be cut to shape and size desired for different effects.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Many Veteran Twins

➤ **MEDICAL FOLLOW-UP** studies on veterans have revealed that both members of 15,500 pairs of twins served in World War II, reports the Journal of the American Medical Association, 182:1103, 1962.

Dr. Michael E. DeBakey of the Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, and Dr. Gilbert W. Beebe, representing the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, Washington, D. C., said the program, started in 1946, had uncovered information beyond that originally sought.

"It would be a mistake to think of the veteran experience solely in terms of diagnoses made during military service or in the later veteran period," they said. Another important exception in addition to the discovery of twin population among veterans has been the search for the effect of some environmental experience well documented during the military period, such as prolonged combat and occupational exposure to X-ray, radar, etc.

Dr. Beebe described a previous study he had made on a representative sample of 2,500 riflemen in European combat during World War II in which it was estimated that the average rifleman could tolerate no more than 88 days of company combat without psychological breakdown.

Dogs Get Lung Cancer

Cigarette smoke condensate has been found to give lung cancer to dogs, a species in which this type of cancer does not usually develop.

Drs. E. E. Rockey, F. D. Speer, S. A. Thompson, K. J. Ahn and

T. Hirose, all of New York Medical College-Metropolitan Medical Center, reported in JAMA (p. 1094) that their study with dogs gives added weight to the case linking cigarettes and cancer.

Diet Can Be Dangerous

Starvation diets that restrict calories to 1,500 or less per day were denounced by Dr. William J. McGanity of the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, in answer to a question submitted to JAMA (p. 1141).

A slimming method described in a recent issue of a popular magazine was denounced not only for the low-calorie diet but the injection of a hormone (human chorionic gonadotropin) produced by the outer covering of the fertilized egg.

He said a recent study disclosed no significant difference in the effects of human chorionic gonadotropin and salt injections on weight reduction.

Breathing in Pregnancy

Shortness of breath occurs in 60 to 70 per cent of pregnant women but the cause is debatable. Drs. Robert Gilbert, Leonard Epifano and J. Howland Auchincloss Jr. of the State University of New York Upstate Medical Center, Syracuse, N. Y., reported a study of 14 healthy pregnant women in JAMA (p. 1073) who exercised on a treadmill while breathing moistened compressed air.

Analysis of the expired air led the investigators to suggest that shortness of breath might be directly related to an unfamiliar low level of carbon dioxide "partial pressure during exercise."

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