

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **TELEPHONE MEMO HOLDER**, made of chrome-plated spring steel, can be attached to the cradle type telephone, without screws or tools. Suitable for home or office, the attachment holds an indefinite number of notes or letters in the coils of the spring within easy reach.

• Science News Letter, 84:16 July 6, 1963

⚙️ **PHONOGRAPH NEEDLE** can be bent, knocked, flicked, or twisted in a 360-degree orbit and it will spring back undamaged to playing position. Its flexibility virtually eliminates scratched records from accidentally dropped tonearms and damage to the needle. Made for stereo records, the virtually unbreakable diamond needle follows grooves up to 40% more precisely than other needles, thus increasing record life.

• Science News Letter, 84:16 July 6, 1963

⚙️ **ADJUSTABLE SHIP CURVE**, a lightweight engineering tool, helps draftsmen turn out clear, distinct drawings. Consisting of a series of flexible channels of clear plastic, the curve can be rapidly shaped with light finger pressure into any desired arc. Available in 18- and 24-inch lengths, the ruler is broad enough for easy handling.

• Science News Letter, 84:16 July 6, 1963

⚙️ **PORCELAIN-ENAMELED STEEL DOOR** and frame can be constructed in a variety of sizes, styles, colors, designs and



types, according to the needs of the builder or architect. Fire- and corrosion-resistant, the doors are ideal for garden apartments, homes, office buildings and schools. They are now available in uniform quality and at a lower cost.

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⚙️ **OIL-METERING SPOUT** assures the exact amount of oil applied to outboard motors, power mowers and all other two-cycle engines. Consisting of a steel hole puncher with a sliding metering tube spout, the device is inserted into the top of a quart can of oil and adjusted to the quantity desired. The can is inverted and the oil pours only to the metered level. The spout can be capped and the oil stored for future use.

• Science News Letter, 84:16 July 6, 1963

⚙️ **ZIPPERED TUBINGS** are protective jackets for wires or other similar materials that can be applied quickly and easily. Made of plastic or synthetic rubber, the tubing is wrapped around the object to be enclosed and is sealed by means of a detachable zipper that travels along preformed tracks in the tubing. A special sealant is available for permanent closures.

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⚙️ **PERSONALIZED PHOTO LAMP**, to display baby's picture or other photographs, holds 8- by 10-inch color photo, black and white prints or color transparencies. Easily installed on the front and back of the lamp shade, the photos are protected from the heat of the lamp by heat-resistant translucent holders. Metal parts are plated with non-tarnishing brass.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Uncertain Suicides Still Investigators' Puzzles

➤ **UNCERTAIN**, or equivocal, suicide is even more of a puzzle than intentional suicide.

Equivocal suicides are cases where there are conflicting wishes to live and die, where the death act is not absolute proof of suicide, or where the after-effects of a suicide attempt cause death several weeks later. In a study of equivocal suicides by five California doctors, the specific role of the individual was studied without trying to place responsibility for the death by calling it suicide, homicide, accident or natural.

More research of the individual before death will help prevent suicidal acts in the future, a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 184:924, 1963, says.

In studying the circumstances of equivocal suicides, the policy was to call the death suicide if the individual was not following his ordinary habits when death occurred. If the victim was only behaving in his usual manner and death occurred, it usually was classified as an accident.

After investigating 100 uncertain suicides, only 55 were certified as actually being suicides. The other 45% were accidental deaths in which the victims habitually risked death as a thrill or were careless about such things as guns, barbiturates and carbon monoxide from automobiles.

Recommended as accidental, for example, were three Russian roulette players who thought they knew where the bullet was located and 16 barbiturate users who consumed too many at one time unintentionally.

Several cases recommended as suicides were persons who deliberately risked death by hanging, poisoning and suffocation in the hope they would be rescued by a repentant relative.

## Iron Poisoning

Prompt action should be taken for iron poisoning, since swallowing even a small amount of ferrous sulphate can be fatal, a report in the Questions and Answers section of JAMA, 184:992, 1963, says. The remedies for iron poisoning include raising blood pressure to counteract collapse, drug therapy to decrease the circulating level of the iron, and milk feeding to soothe and coat injured membranes.

## Heart Tumor Produces Ventricular Obstruction

A tumor in the heart obstructing the outflow of the blood from the right ventricle was diagnosed for the first time in a patient by cardiographic means, a report in JAMA, 184:939, 1963, says. This was the 12th recorded case of a primary malignant tumor of this type, but diagnoses in all the other patients were made after death. Sudden and rapid progression of the illness characterized the symptoms in these patients. Drs. Franz J. Hallermann, Owings W. Kincaid, Arnold L. Brown Jr. and Guy W. Daugherty of Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn., reported the case.

In some of the patients the relatively short period of symptoms was striking when the size of the tumor and the extent of the obstruction were considered, they said.

• Science News Letter, 84:16 July 6, 1963