

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 36, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1205. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **HANDY HOLD MAGNET** for shop, home or car holds any ferrous metal item to a steel cabinet in the bathroom or kitchen or to a car's metal dashboard. Small items such as nail files, manicure scissors, tweezers, needles and pins are held securely by the magnet wherever placed and stay within easy reach until needed.

• Science News Letter, 84:48 July 20, 1963

⚙️ **ELAPSED TIME INDICATOR** records up to 10,000 hours and is useful for maintaining operating logs, checking warranty responsibility and for maintenance. Designed to operate from a 28-volt d.c. system, it has a five-place digital readout that records hours and tenths of hours. It complies with military standards for shock and radio interference.

• Science News Letter, 84:48 July 20, 1963

⚙️ **SILICONE MASONRY COATING** protects brick walls against deterioration and staining by forming an invisible protective shield against water absorption. When sprayed or painted on brick, the solution, unlike paints and other sealants, does not interfere with the natural "breathing" of the brick. The solution is available in two types: water-based for limestone and solvent-based for bricks.

• Science News Letter, 84:48 July 20, 1963



⚙️ **CHARCOAL FIRE STARTER** makes igniting charcoal fires in the outdoor grill easy and safe. Non-explosive, clean and odorless, the fire starters can be lighted with a match. The starters, about one-half inch by two and one-quarter inches in size, are packaged in sets of 36.

• Science News Letter, 84:48 July 20, 1963

⚙️ **CLINOMETERS** for all types of military and commercial applications range in size from one inch to 14 inches. Withstanding temperatures of 155 degrees Fahrenheit, the glass clinometers maintain an accuracy of plus or minus one degree. The tubes are made of Pyrex or lime glass, with or without scales as desired. They can be made with either ball or bubble indicators, according to specifications.

• Science News Letter, 84:48 July 20, 1963

⚙️ **PORTABLE DEHUMIDIFIER** has a special sensing device that automatically turns itself off when the drain pan is full, preventing messy overflows, and switches on a warning light indicating the full drain pan. Built-in nylon wheels and a recessed handle make it easily moved from room to room.

• Science News Letter, 84:48 July 20, 1963

⚙️ **BOOKENDS** for keeping shelves neat and orderly in library, home or office are triangular frames made of steel rods finished in black or bronze. Made to fit any 1/8-inch to 3/8-inch thick shelf with a firm, non-marring grip, the bookends are especially useful on open-end shelves. They can be used also for effective placement of catalogues, files or magazines.

• Science News Letter, 84:48 July 20, 1963

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Tuberculin Test Program

► **TUBERCULIN TESTS** cost much less than mass X-rays, a study of 1,668 children less than two years old showed. The cost of finding an active case of TB in a tuberculin test, which consists of an injection containing extracts of the tubercle bacillus that causes the disease, was about \$501 per case. X-ray survey technique has been estimated as high as \$1,000 per case, Drs. William E. Mosher, A. A. Grabau and V. J. Sallak reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 185:11, 1963.

The investigation was made jointly by the Buffalo and Erie County, N. Y., Tuberculosis and Health Association and the Erie County Department of Health.

## Shaving Does Not Affect Hair Growth, Coarseness

Women who are afraid of shaving the hair from their upper lips need not fear that this will increase or coarsen hair growth, says a report in *JAMA*, 185:60, 1963.

Dr. Howard T. Behrman, New York dermatologist, said in the questions and answers section that this general fear of laymen is unfounded.

Although animal studies have shown that clipping or plucking hairs results in an increase in hair growth, these experimental tests are not applicable to humans.

The usual female impression that, whenever she cuts or shaves lightly pigmented hair, it grows back both darker and

coarser is due to unscientific observation. The color of so-called blond hair is due to the fact that the pigmented portion near the skin surface is concealed by the non-pigmented light portion of the hair farther from the skin.

When this hair is cut or shaved, the dark portion becomes immediately apparent. This cross section of hair is also not only darker but thicker than that of the end portion of the hair that has been removed. The patient is thus convinced that the procedure has both stimulated the growth of the hair and made it coarse.

## Position in Surgery

The physical position patients take when surgery is performed makes a difference, a report in *JAMA*, 185:1, 1963, says.

The patient cannot tell the surgeon when the position is intolerable, but the anesthesiologist finds out by such reactions as low blood pressure, excessively rapid breathing, muscular spasm, jerking of the diaphragm and occasionally cardiovascular collapse.

All that is needed many times is to correct the extreme or improper position, a study has shown.

Discomfort usually occurred within ten minutes after the subjects assumed awkward positions, Drs. George W. N. Eggers Jr., of the University of Missouri School of Medicine, James J. Leonard of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and William J. deGroot and Charles R. Tanner, both of the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, reported.

• Science News Letter, 84:48 July 20, 1963