

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **LONG-REACH SCREW DRIVER** created for use in automotive, aviation, electrical and industrial fields, especially for difficult-to-reach Phillips screws, is 20 inches long. Made of chrome vanadium steel and chrome plated, the screw driver has a plastic break-proof and shock-proof handle with a Phillips No. 2 tip.

• Science News Letter, 84:128 Aug. 24, 1963

⚙️ **ELECTRIC SKI-ROPE RETRIEVER** helps make water skiing safer and more convenient. The retriever resembles an over-size level-winding reel propelled with an electric motor and pays out automatically when the line is pulled by the skier. If the skier should fall or let go of the line, a touch of a button in the boat will quickly reel in the rope, eliminating the danger of cutting and tangling. The retriever will hold any standard 3/16- or 1/4-inch hemp rope.

• Science News Letter, 84:128 Aug. 24, 1963

⚙️ **ANTI-CORROSION COATING** for chrome and other ferrous type surfaces is a new silicone resin for industrial and consumer use. A clear liquid that air dries to a transparent film, the coating protects against yellowing, corrosion by salt spray and other conditions. It can be applied with a brush for industrial use or packaged in aerosol cans for consumer application to auto chrome and other finishes.

• Science News Letter, 84:128 Aug. 24, 1963



⚙️ **MINIATURE SPRINKLER**, shown in photograph, provides fingertip flow control when watering or fertilizing delicate seeds and seedlings in inside seed beds. Its accurately adjusted jets allow the exact amount of water or liquid fertilizer desired to be released uniformly on the seeds or plants. The sprinkler is also useful in laboratory and experimental work. It is available in five pastel colors.

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⚙️ **BATTERY-OPERATED CLOCK** is fully transistorized and cordless. The transistor mechanism is silent with no clicking sound when contact is made, giving longer life to the movement. The clock has an accuracy of plus or minus one minute per week. It can operate in any position and has a very low battery drain.

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⚙️ **GRAPHITE TAPE** for electric furnace heating elements is electrically conductive and more than 99% graphitic carbon. It can be applied as a heating element up to 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit in a vacuum or protective atmosphere. The graphite cloth makes possible the design of furnaces without transformers, affords rapid thermal response and eliminates the problem of hot spots in heating elements.

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⚙️ **MEAT LIFTER** simplifies transferring heavy roasts and hams from roaster to platter. Made of a strip of unalloyed aluminum four inches wide and 15 inches long with a handle on each end, the lifter is easy to handle, clean and store. In use, the meat is placed on the device, then lifted into the roasting pan where the lifter remains during cooking. When the meat is done, the lifter is used to transfer the roast to the platter and then removed.

• Science News Letter, 84:128 Aug. 24, 1963

• Doctors Are Reading •

Suicide by Tranquilizers

➤ **TRANQUILIZERS** are becoming as popular as sleeping pills for committing suicide, a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 185:425, 1963, said.

Studies of 968 cases of tranquilizer poisoning, reviewed by a team of U.S. Public Health officials, Washington, D. C., showed that 35% of all such cases were intentional.

Most of the suicides, the investigators said, were attempted with mild tranquilizers that are "frequently prescribed for minor, non-hospitalized emotional disturbances." Most powerful tranquilizers were taken accidentally by children.

In reporting their research, Drs. Charles H. McKown, Henry L. Verhulst and John J. Crotty warned parents about carelessness and physicians about "casual administration" of tranquilizers. They said that taking a great number of even mild tranquilizers can lead to coma, shock and death.

Cause of Dishpan Hands

Dishpan hands may not be caused by detergents alone.

Studies have shown that normal household use of both soap and synthetic detergents is not, in itself, sufficient to cause skin rashes on the hands, or "housewives' dermatitis," a report said in the Archives of Dermatology, Aug., 1963.

In addition, investigators said, repeated exposure to the cleansers did not aggravate existing skin problems.

Use of detergents has increased since the end of World War II. Skin problems that affect many housewives have often been

attributed to using the cleansers, without full evidence having been compiled.

Drs. R. R. Suskind, Portland, Ore., M. M. Meister, Milwaukee, S. R. Scheen, Louisville, and D. J. A. Rebello, Bombay, India, said that cold temperatures and low humidity are important factors in the development of "housewives' dermatitis." Under these conditions, chapping commonly occurs and the irritated skin is more prone to infection.

Other important factors are pre-existing skin problems, use of other chemical agents in housework, minor injuries, infections and emotional make-up.

Successful Have Gout

Success in business and educational pursuits is now associated with gout. A team of researchers reported in JAMA, 185:431, 1963, that this inflammatory disease of the joints of the hands or feet, long considered an upper-class ailment, does not depend on blue blood.

More frequent among men than women, gout was discovered in 42% of the executives among 339 studied, and in 12% of the 532 craftsmen studied.

Gout is characterized by excess uric acid in the blood, and frequently affects the great toe.

Reporting this study were Drs. Judith Mausner, James P. Dunn and Gerald P. Rodnan of the University of Pittsburgh, and Dr. Sidney Cobb and George W. Brooks, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

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