

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **WET AND DRY MEASURING CUP** consists of two eight-ounce graduated sections joined by a common bottom. In use, the boil- and break-proof unit is turned end over end as required, eliminating the need for in-between washing. Each of the cup sections has a separate dripless spout.

• Science News Letter, 84:144 Aug. 31, 1963

☛ **CONDUCTIVE PAINT SPRAY** in aerosol form can eliminate the waste of brush-on paints and the need for building metal enclosures around circuit modules and components. Suitable for laboratory or field use, the paint will adhere to plastic, glass or ceramic, forming an electromagnetic shield that will not crack when ribbon circuits are twisted or bent. A cardboard box sprayed with the paint forms a perfect shield for equipment.

• Science News Letter, 84:144 Aug. 31, 1963

☛ **NEW ELECTRICAL SOCKET** has a ring switch that eliminates fumbling in the dark for push-pull switches or twist knobs. The switch slides up and down the brass body of the socket to turn on and off and can be operated from any angle. The long-lasting, shock-proof socket is easy to install and operate.

• Science News Letter, 84:144 Aug. 31, 1963

☛ **FIRE AND BURGLAR ALARM** that fits in the palm of the hand, shown in



photograph, helps keep the family, important papers and valuables safe in home or office, car or boat. Battery-operated and independent of any electrical circuit, the device fits any door, window, desk drawer or file cabinet. In case of fire or attempted burglary, it produces a piercing call that can be heard over 1,000 feet away.

• Science News Letter, 84:144 Aug. 31, 1963

☛ **DISPOSABLE BACTERIOCIDAL CLOTH** for hospital, home and industry is a soft, odorless wet-strength tissue that gives bacterial protection when it cleans. Used either wet or dry, the cloth kills germs on contact and leaves an invisible film which prevents further growth of bacteria for 24 hours on the cleaned surface. Non-irritating to the skin, it is suitable for use on infant furniture, telephone, microscopes and hospital fixtures.

• Science News Letter, 84:144 Aug. 31, 1963

☛ **FLOATING BED PAD** gives comfort to bedridden patients. The soft and fleecy synthetic sheepskin has a resilient one-inch pile that permits the body to float slightly, allowing air to circulate beneath the body. Soothing to the parts of the body where rubbing and pressure occur, the washable pad helps relieve bedsores.

• Science News Letter, 84:144 Aug. 31, 1963

☛ **PLASTIC SEPARATORY FUNNEL** molded of unusually clear unbreakable polypropylene plastic is suitable for accurate analyses in research and school laboratories. The funnel and stopcock housing are constructed in one piece with no joints to impede liquid flow. Its friction-free plug needs no lubrication. The funnel, available in different sizes, resists virtually all chemicals and can be autoclaved without damage.

• Science News Letter, 84:144 Aug. 31, 1963

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Alcohol Slows Performance

➤ **ONE HIGHBALL** can impair performance on simple tests taken under stress-provoking conditions, Drs. Francis W. Hughes and Robert B. Forney of Indiana University School of Medicine reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 185:556, 1963.

However, when the anti-depressant nortriptyline was given with the alcoholic drink, it tended to make performances more normal, and when given alone it did not affect performance by the paid volunteer medical and graduate students who took part in the experiment.

## Prenatal Threat

The fever blister virus, herpes simplex, can cause death in infants infected during passage through the birth canal, Drs. Joe E. Mitchell and Fred C. McCall of Bristol, Tenn., reported in the *American Journal of Diseases of Children*, 106:207, 1963, published by the American Medical Association. They reported a case of a child who lived but was infected inside the mother's uterus because she had been infected by the father approximately ten days before the baby was born.

## Runaways Prepsychotic

Severe mental illness may develop in children who run away from home, Dr. Theodore Leventhal, chief psychologist of the Worcester, Mass., Youth Guidance Center, said in *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 9:122, 1963.

Reporting on a study of 42 runaways and 42 other troubled

children, the psychologist said he does not agree with the idea held by many professional and most lay persons that running away is a harmless activity.

## Nicotine Content Varies

The nicotine content in the tobacco of the various popular brands of cigarettes may vary from about 10 to 18 milligrams per cigarette, but remains constant in any one brand, Dr. Paul S. Larson of Richmond, Va., said in the questions and answers section of *JAMA*, 185:614, 1963.

Individual smokers vary in the amount of nicotine they can safely absorb.

## Mechanical Heart Foreseen

We could have a workable mechanical heart in ten years, Dr. C. Walton Lillehei of the University of Minnesota, an outstanding heart surgeon, said in *The New Physician*, Aug., journal of the Student American Medical Association, provided "we could enlist the enthusiasm and concern of scientists in such a project as was done" for the vast atomic Manhattan Project.

## Surgery Deaths Cut

A cardiac monitor-pacemaker has been credited with preventing deaths caused by the heart stopping during surgery. Drs. Joseph P. Crehan and Morris J. Nicholson of the Lahey Clinic, Boston, reported in *JAMA*, 185:604, 1963, that they do not consider the monitor pacemaker a panacea, but using it is feasible and worthwhile in many cases.

• Science News Letter, 84:144 Aug. 31, 1963