

• 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, D. C. 20036, and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1213. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **SQUARE FLUORESCENT LAMPS** that provide flexibility in design and lighting can be dimmed for special lighting effects. The fixtures can be combined to contain incandescent lamps behind colored filters to produce dramatic effects and arranged in a variety of ways for designing needs. The lamps at present are available for commercial purposes only, and supplies are limited.

• Science News Letter, 84:176 Sept. 14, 1963

⊗ **TRANSISTORIZED IGNITION SYSTEM** can be installed on any type reciprocating gas engine. Producing sparks that are consistently adequate to ignite the fuel for complete combustion at all speeds, the transistorized ignition system allows gas consumption savings up to 15%. Other benefits are less wear, quicker starts, fewer tune-ups and better performance. Complete instructions are included with the set.

• Science News Letter, 84:176 Sept. 14, 1963

⊗ **SAFETY HAT** molded from tough thermoplastic resin for general purpose head wear has a two-piece polyethylene suspension unit that insures correct minimum clearance between head and shell. The flexible suspension is secured to the shell at eight points for distribution of impact. Unaffected by acids, alkalis or detergents, the rigid nonpermeable shell will not crack, chip or deform even at low temperatures.

• Science News Letter, 84:176 Sept. 14, 1963



⊗ **SELF-STABILIZING TABS**, shown in photograph, for peg boards are molded of strong resilient plastic in a new design that permits tool holders, hooks, loops and other tabs to be fastened on sideways or upside down. The peg end of each fixture inserts into two consecutive holes in the panel, eliminating swing or sway. Thus the hooks can be used in a variety of ways including support for shelves.

• Science News Letter, 84:176 Sept. 14, 1963

⊗ **EMERGENCY PACK** that provides light, heat and cooking facilities in case of hurricane, flood, wind or storm, when electricity and gas supplies are cut off, comes in a compact unit. The kit contains a propane lantern that burns clean with no soot or odor and provides light for 40 hours, a propane stove that lights instantly and two extra fuel cylinders.

• Science News Letter, 84:176 Sept. 14, 1963

⊗ **CERAMIC-TO-METAL END SEALS** are designed especially for use with mineral-insulated cable ends. Capable of withstanding operating temperatures up to 1,500 degrees Fahrenheit and pressures as high as 5,000 psi, they have excellent corrosion resistance and high mechanical strength. They can be installed by heli-arc welding, torch or furnace brazing and soldering.

• Science News Letter, 84:176 Sept. 14, 1963

⊗ **TIME/TEMPERATURE INDICATOR** for frozen food products is a calibrated self-contained device smaller than a match book. The indicator, actually a tiny electrolytic battery, operates as soon as it is activated by the user and requires no external power supply. The device can be packed with perishables in storage and by noting the position of the red-yellow boundary line the time history of temperature can be easily checked by the user. Long-run and short-run models are available.

• Science News Letter, 84:176 Sept. 14, 1963

• Doctors Are Reading •

Paralyzed Woman Walks

➤ A PARALYZED 47-year-old woman walked almost normally after removal of a tumor from the upper part of her spinal cord, it was reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 185:685, 1963. The woman was a former nurse who had not been able to walk for 18 months.

Examination at the Chicago Wesley Memorial Hospital showed complete paralysis of both lower limbs. Surgery involving complete removal of a neurofibroma lying at the back and to the right of the spinal cord resulted in gradual improvement of her legs. She had to begin with the aid of a walker, but after about five years, she was walking in a virtually normal way.

Drs. Paul C. Bucy and Roongtam Ladpli of Northwestern University Medical School reported the case, along with three others affected with benign, or noncancerous tumors.

Monkey Virus and Cancer

The discovery that simian virus 40 (SV40) causes cancer for some types of newborn animals in laboratories has raised the problem of its possible effect on man, especially since it has been found in poliomyelitis and adenovirus vaccines.

Three investigators reported in *JAMA*, 185:713, 1963, however, that no effect of SV40 was found on the death rate from cancer in persons studied under 25 years of age.

Drs. Joseph F. Fraumeni Jr. and Robert W. Miller, with Fred Ederer, all of the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Md., said the lack of an effect was not surprising. The dose of SV40 in the

killed polio vaccine was probably low compared with that required to produce tumors in laboratory animals, they explained.

Furthermore, the humans vaccinated were well beyond the newborn period, which in animal experimentation has proved to be the age of greatest susceptibility. The investigators studied death rates for 1950-59, when the first mass Salk immunization trials were going on.

GG for Allergies

Children with continuous allergies resembling colds were transformed from irritable youngsters to happy and energetic family members after their family doctors treated them with gamma globulin (GG), two physicians reported in *JAMA*, 185:692, 1963.

Drs. Bernard Redner and Harry Markow, both of the department of allergy, Beth-El Hospital, Brooklyn, N. Y., said they frankly admit that their excellent results with GG cannot be explained by any scientific, immunological or allergic reasoning at the present time, but they "reserve their right to theorize."

The doctors gave small doses along with inert injections to 30 children with bronchial asthma, allergic rhinitis (inflammation of the nose lining) or both, and with frequent complications in the form of upper respiratory infections. Gamma globulin, a blood plasma protein, contains antibodies used in the treatment or prevention of measles, infectious hepatitis, polio and other conditions. The researchers said they believe the small doses they gave may have stimulated synthesis, mobilization or use of gamma globulin.

• Science News Letter, 84:176 Sept. 14, 1963