

• 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 1214. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⚙️ **FIREPROOF ENVELOPE** for protecting money, valuable papers and documents in the home or office is made of aluminized asbestos that resists disintegration and charring, and will withstand temperatures up to 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. It is available in two sizes, 4 by 6 inches and 9 by 12 inches.

• Science News Letter, 84:191 Sept. 21, 1963

⚙️ **ADJUSTABLE BEDBOARD** is useful for the comfort of patients or for reading in bed, providing back support in any bed from three-quarter to single bed sizes. Made of lacquered hardwood plywood panels with an aluminum frame, the support adjusts to 21 positions and is easily operated. It folds compactly for storage.

• Science News Letter, 84:191 Sept. 21, 1963

⚙️ **COMPACT TABLE WITH STOOLS** for sportsmen and campers is imported from Sweden. Two chairs and two stools are nested inside the folding table for storage or transportation. The table, which has rust-proof steel, rubber tipped legs and a plastic treated top, opens to 32 by 24 inches. It folds down to 24 by 15 by 3 inches. Stools and chairs can be used independently of the table.

• Science News Letter, 84:191 Sept. 21, 1963



⚙️ **ADJUSTABLE DOOR BUMPER**, shown in photograph, attaches to the hinge pin of a door and eliminates accidents caused by tripping on doorstops. The butterfly design of the bumper allows the door's travel distance to be regulated from 70 to 100 degrees, preventing damage to walls or furniture. Finished in brass, nickel, bronze or chrome, the rubber tipped bumper can be attached either to the bottom or top hinge of the door.

• Science News Letter, 84:191 Sept. 21, 1963

⚙️ **SUNKEN GARDEN POOL** to beautify the home garden is suitable for keeping goldfish and lilies. Crack-proof and water-tight, the plastic pool is 3 feet 5 inches by 2 feet 3 inches and 8 inches deep. It can be quickly installed without plumbing.

• Science News Letter, 84:191 Sept. 21, 1963

⚙️ **TINY ELECTRIC PUMP** for hobbyists weighs only one and one-quarter ounces. Entirely submersible, the plastic miniature pump, operating on 8 to 20 volts a.c., can lift one pint of water per minute. Small enough to be easily concealed, the pumps are useful in construction of advertising displays, miniature waterfalls and decorative arrangements, in addition to a wide range of hydro experimentation.

• Science News Letter, 84:191 Sept. 21, 1963

⚙️ **COMPACT TOOL KIT** for the handyman in home, office, boat or shop is a tiny clear plastic tube, not much larger than a cigar, that holds 10 hand tools. The tools include three cabinet blades, two Phillips type blades, a tack puller, scratch awl, saw, chisel and hammer. There is also an interchangeable self-locking, non-breakable amber handle. Tools are nickel-plated with hardened steel blades.

• Science News Letter, 84:191 Sept. 21, 1963

• Doctors Are Reading •

Camp Leaders Have Accidents

Counsellors have more accidents than the campers they supervise, a study of summer camps reported in the Archives of Environmental Medicine, 769:757, 1963, showed. Three camps studied by a group of doctors and nurses, all in New England, showed "a remarkably low accident rate among the campers, with a contrastingly high rate among the staff." Falls and cuts led the list of injuries.

The study was made by Dr. Roger J. Meyer, Burlington, Vt.; Dr. Sidney Kibrick with nurses Anne K. Kibrick, Mary P. Ryan and Rose Godbout, Boston, and Dr. Edwin Brown, Medford, Mass.

Circumcision Questioned

➤ **TO CIRCUMCISE** or not to circumcise as routine procedure for a baby not affected by religious custom is bothering the medical profession, it was reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 185:780, 1963.

Called a "rite of antiquity" and a "ritual of primitive civilizations," routine circumcision is at the same time supposed to accomplish a number of concrete objectives, including prevention of cancer of both male and female organs. "Cleanliness" of the male organ is believed greater in the circumcised, an editorial in JAMA pointed out.

Doctors are in conflict and parents are confused on the issue, it is reported in the American Journal of Diseases of Children, 106:216, 1963. Two simple surveys conducted among pediatricians, obstetricians, urologists and mothers of boy babies by Drs. Robert A. Shaw and W. O. Robertson of Columbus, Ohio, illustrate the confusion.

Three mothers said their babies were circumcised because they thought it looked better; another said she thought it was the law. Medical opinion varied: although 33% of the obstetricians thought routine circumcision was advisable, ten urologists thought it was not advisable. Seven pediatricians said in their medical opinions the decision should be left entirely to the parents.

The Ohio doctors concluded that their survey cast reasonable doubt on the belief that decisions on this matter were reached scientifically. They expressed hope that the situation might change in the next century, but warned not to "bet on it."

M.D.s' Legal Liability

The risk of being sued by a patient is one of the facts of life for a physician in active practice, a report stated in JAMA 185:789, 1963.

Advice on 131 legal-medical questions includes these answers: Written explanation of risks in specific treatments such as cobalt radiation should be accompanied by written consent of the patient to protect the physician against legal action.

A general practitioner is liable for injuries to a patient if he has treated him for a condition requiring a specialist's care.

The doctor should advise a patient's family and others likely to be exposed to any communicable disease that might spread.

If a patient's arm is partially paralyzed because the doctor fails to loosen a too-tight cast, he is liable for legal action.

If a plastic surgeon publishes "before" and "after" photographs of a patient who has undergone cosmetic surgery, he must have the patient's consent. The AMA Law Department advised every physician to get a lawyer.

• Science News Letter, 84:191 Sept. 21, 1963