

• 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 1215. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

☛ **PORTABLE RADIANT HEATER** operates on a self-contained propane gas supply and is ideal for heating cold bedrooms or bathrooms. Hunters or campers will find it useful. Provided with an adjustable heat control, the heater can be set on any surface, carried by hand or hung from the wall or ceiling. Weighing only about eight pounds, it is 13 by 8 by 5½ inches in size.

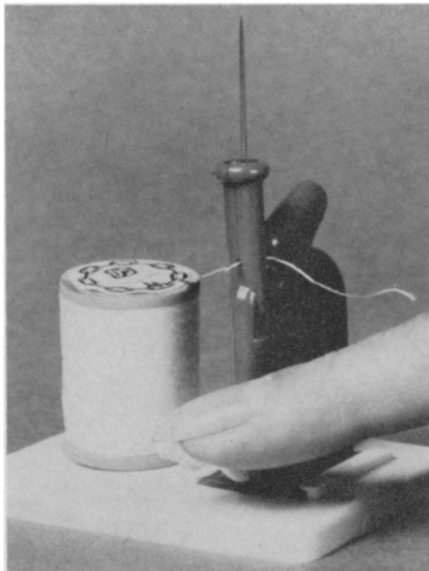
• Science News Letter, 84:208 Sept. 28, 1963

☛ **SCIENCE PLACE MATS** for school and college dining halls are printed with colorfully illustrated stories on one of five areas of scientific interest. Containing simple text and drawings about the solar system, astronauts, moon, weather and American inventors, the mats stimulate student interest. Of standard 10- by 14-inch size, the place mats are sturdy and resistant to moisture.

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☛ **TELEPHONE DOOR ANSWERING SERVICE** permits a person to answer the door from the nearest telephone within the home without going to the door. Designed for operation with any standard two-line telephone, the device, which includes a speaker-microphone mounted outside at the door, allows a two-way conversation between the householder and anyone who rings the doorbell. The service saves time and steps, and gives protection from dangerous intruders.

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☛ **AUTOMATIC NEEDLE THREADER**, shown in photograph, that threads a needle by a push of a button is especially useful to persons with weak eyes or nervous fingers. To operate, the needle is simply dropped into the threader in which the thread has previously been inserted, a button is pressed and the threaded needle is then removed. A dozen needles, a spool of thread and complete instructions are included in the kit.

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☛ **DISPOSABLE PILLOW CASES** of paper or plastic guard against cross-infection in hospitals. The paper pillow case is made of soft yarn-reinforced cellulose and looks and feels like soft cloth. The plastic case is soft, thin, opaque white and waterproof and will protect the pillow from moisture and stains. The plastic case can also serve as a bag for the patient's clothing.

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☛ **BIOLOGICAL FUEL CELLS** for science class demonstrations are clear plastic containers filled with powdered rice husks and thousands of harmless bacteria. The microscopic bacteria, similar to yeast or bread mold, feed on the husks, producing energy that is transmitted to the unit. Twelve cells provided with anodes and cathodes are connected with wire to make up the battery. A bio-battery can operate a transistor radio or small light bulb.

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☛ **STYRENE SHUTTERS** eliminate the problem of maintenance required for wooden shutters. The plastic shutters are rot proof, dent resistant, closed slat, continuous louver style and can be easily attached to brick, aluminum, wood, plastic or other surface. Available in a wide range of sizes, the shutters, finished in white, come ready to install with nailing strips and aluminum nails provided. They are suitable also for interior use.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Transplants From Dead

➤ **STORAGE OF HUMAN** transplants such as skin and bone for more than two weeks in average community hospital refrigerators is now practical, using tissues from the recently deceased, it was reported in *Archives of Surgery* 87:417, 1963.

Permission is easily obtained from the next of kin to remove the tissues, which remain alive for 24 hours before freezing.

After removal, the skin is wrapped in gauze sponges soaked in a salt solution of antibiotics and stored in sterile bottles in an ordinary refrigerator. Skin for severely burned patients is especially needed, and can be easily and quickly obtained through this method.

Reporting the practical method of tissue banking were Lt. Comdr. Richard B. Gresham, Lt. Vernon P. Perry and Comdr. Vera K. Thompson, all of the National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md.

Fewer Heart Attacks Among Bosses

One man's stress may be another man's pleasure, a report on 1,356 employees by the medical division of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., Wilmington, Del., shows.

Drs. Sidney Pell and C. Anthony D'Alonzo have finished a study, begun six years ago, in which they found that clerical workers have more heart attacks than presidents, vice presidents and managers of the large industrial firm.

The demands of a top-management job may be no more stressful, the researchers said, than situations commonly encountered by those in lower job levels, at work and at home.

Other conclusions of the report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* 185:831, 1963, include:

1. High blood pressure increases the risk of heart attack in all age groups studied, especially in men under 45.
2. Overweight is not associated with heart attacks between the ages of 45 and 64.
3. Under 45 years of age, both conditions appear to increase the risk of heart attack, particularly when they occur jointly.
4. In men under 45 who are both hypertensive and overweight, the estimated incidence of a heart attack is five times that of men with neither of these conditions.

Air Conditioning for Viruses

Sneezes that produce droplets causing the spread of flu, colds and other virus-borne diseases could be made harmless indoors by air conditioning, two researchers stated in the *Archives of Environmental Health* 7:359, 1963.

The catch is the cost.

Drs. Edward C. Riley of Rochester, N.Y., and Richard L. Riley, Baltimore, said control of indoor particles theoretically could be achieved but fantastic rates of ventilation would be required.

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