

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **PLASTIC WATERPROOFER** that brushes on like paint seals seams, cracks and whole walls. Colorless, odorless and non-flammable, the compound will not shrink or expand and is not affected by heat, cold or corrosion. The waterproofer can be applied to either dry or damp surfaces, can be painted over and dries within eight to ten hours.

• Science News Letter, 84:272 Oct. 26, 1963

⊗ **CONDUIT HANGERS** designed for use with beam clamps and screws cut installation costs of conduits and pipes. Provided with a hang-on opening, the steel one-piece hanger is easily installed by slipping over the head of a previously mounted screw or bolt. When tightened, the hanger stays firmly in place and cannot vibrate loose. Sizes from ½-inch through 4-inch conduits are available.

• Science News Letter, 84:272 Oct. 26, 1963

⊗ **MOUNTING BUTTONS** for putting up memos, cards, posters, signs or other display items on walls, windows, chalk boards, or bulletin boards, stick with just finger tip pressure. Eliminating the need for gluing and pinning, the reusable buttons are only ⅜ inch in size and come off with just a twist. Containing no solvents, they will not mar hard surfaces.

• Science News Letter, 84:272 Oct. 26, 1963



⊗ **ELECTRIC MITTENS**, shown in the photograph, of wool and nylon reinforced eliminate the problem of cold and frost-bitten hands in winter for hunters, skiers, ice fishermen and other outdoorsmen. Allowing complete flexibility of movement, the mittens are heated with two standard six-volt lantern batteries contained in a zippered case which attaches to the belt. A completely insulated lightweight wire runs under the clothing from the battery and connects with the mittens at the wrist.

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⊗ **PLASTIC STOPCOCKS**, made of Teflon, have a new design plug that eliminates freezing and leaking. The plugs, available in two-way and three-way designs, have a standard 1:5 taper with finer threads that make adjustment easier.

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⊗ **DISPOSABLE PLASTIC BEAKERS** made of transparent unbreakable polypropylene are especially convenient and economical for experiments or uses involving materials where the containers are eventually discarded. The beakers are also time-saving since no washing is involved. Provided with a dripless lip and ribs that prevent binding when stacking, the beakers are available in several sizes.

• Science News Letter, 84:272 Oct. 26, 1963

⊗ **PORTABLE HEATER-VENTILATOR** only slightly larger than a brick may be placed on a desk, hung on the wall or tilted at any angle to radiate warmth in any direction. The heater will raise the temperature in a 12 x 18 foot room 10 degrees in 36 minutes while a built-in thermostat keeps the room at any temperature from 50 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit. Quiet and draftless, it is especially useful in the nursery or bedroom.

• Science News Letter, 84:272 Oct. 26, 1963

• Doctors Are Reading •

Men Over 40 Need Yearly Examinations

► **THE FACT** that 14,000 men died in 1962 from cancer of the prostate gland emphasizes the need for yearly examinations of all men over age 40, a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 186:127, 1963, said.

A simple rectal examination is recommended by Drs. Ralph J. Veenema and John K. Latimer of Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center.

Cafe "Coronary" Treatment

The suspected cafe "coronary" attack from which middle-aged or elderly persons die in restaurants may be due to a piece of steak or other food blocking the airway. It can be treated by a quick tracheotomy, or surgical incision into the windpipe to prevent suffocation.

Dr. R. K. Haugen of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., reported in the JAMA, 186:142, 1963, that "acute alcoholism, poor teeth and atrocious table manners" are considered to be the causes.

Medical Briefs

Obesity among 527 railway operating employees studied was associated with frequency of diabetes but not with coronary heart disease, Dr. George E. Dimond of Detroit said in an article in the Archives of Internal Medicine, 112:550, 1963.

An operation helps those whose glands manufacture a high amount of sweat that has a distinctive acrid odor, Drs. Harry J.

Hurley and Walter B. Shelley of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, reported in JAMA, 186:109, 1963.

Women can infect men with gonorrhoea without knowing they have the disease, four scientists at the U.S. Public Health Service, Atlanta, said in JAMA, 186:153, 1963.

Viral Theory of Leukemia

The idea that leukemia, cancer of the blood-forming organs, is an infectious disease like other viral diseases was strengthened by a report in JAMA, 186:106, 1963. Leukemia antibodies were found among families of children with the disease in Niles, Ill.

Because antibodies were not discovered in all members of a family does not mean they were not present, two Chicago physicians, Steven O. Schwartz and Irving Greenspan, with Dr. Eric R. Brown, reported.

Meningitis at Camp

After 24 years of successful treatment against meningitis by sulfonamides, specific strains of *Neisseria meningitidis* have become resistant to this class of drugs. This was reported to be the cause of the San Diego, Calif., outbreaks that were traceable to civilians.

The editors of JAMA, 186:142, 1963, said the report on meningococcal infections should be considered the opinions of the five scientists who signed the journal article: Cmdr. Jack Millar, USN, Capt. Eugene E. Stess, USN, Drs. Harry A. Feldman and Carl Silverman, with Paul Frank, San Diego, Calif.

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