

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PERSONALIZED STEINS** 3¼ inches tall by 2¼ inches in diameter that can be personalized with any name will appeal to any young child. The name engraved on the stein, made of pressed crystal glass, stands out white and clear. The sturdy glasses are suitable for milk, juices and other mealtime drinks.

• Science News Letter, 84:320 Nov. 16, 1963

⚙️ **FLUID DISPENSER ATTACHMENT** helps chemists save time and material. The plastic device, working like a pump, repetitively measures and dispenses fluids of a preset amount. It is adjustable from 5 to 24 milliliters. Shatterproof and highly resistant to chemicals, the dispenser connects to a 16-ounce polyethylene storage bottle.

• Science News Letter, 84:320 Nov. 16, 1963

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC STIRRER** for stoppered containers avoids contamination from stirring rods. Operating unattended, the device has three interchangeable platforms and a variable speed motor that rotates the container with a gentle whirling motion. The stirrer is useful for acid-base titration, dissolving crystals, blood reconstitution and oxygenating frog eggs.

• Science News Letter, 84:320 Nov. 16, 1963

⚙️ **ELECTRIC HAIR DRYER**, shown in photograph, with an adjustable shoulder strap is lightweight and can be carried over the shoulder by the busy housewife while



household chores are being done. A roomy hood fits over the largest rollers and is thermostatically protected against overheating. A ten-foot power cord allows free movement. Provided with brush and comb drying attachments it is also useful for setting simple styles and for children's hair.

• Science News Letter, 84:320 Nov. 16, 1963

⚙️ **MAGNETIC DOOR LOCK** for home, hospital and industrial use secures doors and hatches, either open or closed, with a flick of a switch. The electromagnetic circuit which secures the door may be broken by a pressure of 30-50 pounds in an emergency. Especially useful in hospital lavatories where patients may frequently become ill or collapse, it also prevents children from being locked in the bathroom.

• Science News Letter, 84:320 Nov. 16, 1963

⚙️ **SPRAY GLUE** for home repairs is a contact type cement that comes in an aerosol can. Easy to apply and usable on almost any kind of glossy or porous surface, including wood, glass, crockery, leather and paper, it sets quickly and dries clear. It withstands heat up to 130 degrees Fahrenheit and is waterproof. 400 applications are possible from one four-ounce can.

• Science News Letter, 84:320 Nov. 16, 1963

⚙️ **CAR CARRY-ALL** of luggage type construction keeps travel items ready for instant use but stored and out of the way. Measuring 14 x 7 x 6 inches and fully lined, the carry-all with a lift-up lid has compartments for cigarettes, glasses, tissues and maps and also a concealed removable coin holder for parking and tolls. It can be readily moved from the front seat to the back seat.

• Science News Letter, 84:320 Nov. 16, 1963

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Infection From Caribbean Swim Pool

➤ A 49-YEAR-OLD New York physician, his wife and a friend on a Caribbean vacation got a form of schistosomiasis from bathing in a fresh water swimming pool, a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 186:453, 1963, said. Also reported was an infection with another type of the infectious disease by a 29-year-old American man traveling in Egypt.

Drs. Harry Most and Daniel I. Levine of New York University School of Medicine advised physicians to ask patients with any bizarre illness, "Where have you been?" If the answer includes the tropics, the diagnosis can be speeded up.

The physician, his wife and friend were exposed to the species *Schistosoma mansoni* when they were in St. Lucia, but only the doctor required hospitalization for acute illness.

The young man had been traveling around the world for seven months and in the effort to save money on expenses, he bathed while in Egypt in water from crocks filled from nearby canals or rivers. On one occasion he bathed in the Nile for about ten minutes. His illness was caused by the species *Schistosoma haematobium* and was complicated by drug allergy, but the final diagnosis took three and a half years after infection.

## Starvation by Neglect

Starvation of babies, a variation of the so-called "battered child syndrome," was reported in JAMA, 186:458, 1963, by Dr. Lester Adelson of Western Reserve University, Cleveland.

Dr. Adelson, who is also chief deputy coroner of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, reported tragic crimes of parents resulting in the death by starvation of five children less than nine months old.

Two of the babies came from reasonably clean homes and had healthy, well fed brothers and sisters, but three were born out of wedlock, came from unkempt homes and had brothers and sisters in either poor or only fair condition.

Welfare agencies should stubbornly insist that mothers neglecting their children bring them to a clinic or hospital, Dr. Adelson said. It is not sufficient to arrest, condemn and punish mothers after the children are dead, he pointed out.

## Cat Infecting Humans

The question of whether or not a pet cat should be destroyed if it does not respond to treatment for staphylococcal infection was answered in the affirmative in the questions and answers section of JAMA, 186:528, 1963. Although the relationships between animal and human infection are not completely understood, the Persian cat in question should be considered as a source of infection for man.

A Bronxville physician also asked how to get rid of the infection in the cat's favorite chair. Dr. Duane F. Brobst of Lafayette, Ind., advised vacuum-cleaning and storage up to 14 weeks, after which the staph organisms would be dead. Ultraviolet radiation from the sun would speed disinfection, he said.

• Science News Letter, 84:320 Nov. 16, 1963