

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **HIGH CAPACITY HUMIDIFIER** for large areas is useful especially to textile and paper mills, printing plants and other industries where a high humidity over a large area must be maintained. The device projects a fine fog several feet through a non-clogging nozzle. Working on water pressure, it requires no compressed air, fans, or electrical connections.

• Science News Letter, 85:144 Feb. 29, 1964

⚙️ **STEEL SPRING FASTENERS** replace nails and screws for holding boxes and crates together. The fasteners are G-shaped steel springs which clamp box and crate panels together without injuring them, allowing the panels to be disassembled for repeated reuse. The boxes can be assembled with the spring fasteners in about two-thirds the time required for nailing.

• Science News Letter, 85:144 Feb. 29, 1964

⚙️ **FUEL GAUGE MIRROR** for boats makes a fuel gauge in an inaccessible spot easily readable. The device which fits snugly over the gauge consists of two aluminum mirrors. One mirror, permanently mounted at a slight angle above the gauge, catches the figures and reflects them onto the second mirror to the rear and below it. The rear mirror has been swiveled to the proper position for reading.

• Science News Letter, 85:144 Feb. 29, 1964

⚙️ **TELEPHONE TIMER**, shown in photograph, that helps prevent overtime long



distance calls is a clear plastic cylinder three inches high mounted on a plastic base. A variation of the hour glass, the cylinder contains instead of sand a small colored plastic ball immersed in a silicone fluid. The fluid regulates the movement of the ball up and down according to a prescribed timetable. Timers in different time periods up to 25 minutes are also available for other purposes.

• Science News Letter, 85:144 Feb. 29, 1964

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC DEVELOPING SYSTEM** is a simplified film developing method using two prepared solutions diluted 1:1 when used. The film is dipped into solution A for one minute, then in solution B for approximately two minutes, rinsed in water, fixed and then washed. Time lengths in the solutions do not have to be measured exactly with no worry about under or over-development. The solution may be reused for up to 50 rolls of film.

• Science News Letter, 85:144 Feb. 29, 1964

⚙️ **PRESSURE WATER TANK** for private suburban and rural water systems provides fresh water at constant pressure at all times. Adaptable to most submersible, jet or piston pumps, the steel tank, easily installed, occupies only 1½ cubic feet of space. A pressure gauge attached indicates whether the system is functioning properly and an inner water reservoir assures complete separation of air and water. The tank does not sweat.

• Science News Letter, 85:144 Feb. 29, 1964

⚙️ **DISPOSABLE HOSPITAL TRAY** for dressings and instruments minimizes danger of spreading contamination. Made of thin lightweight aluminum, the tray has three compartments into which different items, such as cotton, gauze or instruments can be placed. Wrapped in special paper, the tray can be sterilized. These trays are also suitable for serving meals to patients with contagious diseases.

• Science News Letter, 85:144 Feb. 29, 1964

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Artificial Heart Valve

➤ **WHAT IS BELIEVED** to be the first survival of a person whose aortic valve leading to the heart was replaced totally by an artificial one has been reported in Houston, Texas.

The torn aortic valve resulted from a "steering wheel injury" to a 39-year-old woman suffered in an automobile accident. This led to regurgitation, leakage of blood backward, and later congestive heart failure.

Drs. Arthur C. Beall Jr. and Albert L. Shirkey of Houston performed two operations on the patient, one at the Jefferson Davis Hospital, the other at the Ben Taub General Hospital. Their findings were reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 187:507, 1964.

## Lincoln's Lankiness Hereditary

Abraham Lincoln's unusual body build has now been attributed to an inherited disorder of the connective tissue called the Marfan syndrome.

The common ancestry of a seven-year-old boy who had Marfan syndrome and the 16th President of the United States, was reported in *JAMA*, 187:473, 1964, by Dr. Harold Schwartz of Huntington Park, Calif.

The mother and 15-year-old sister of the boy also had a type of Marfan syndrome, which is marked by excessive long-bone growth. This produces disproportionately elongated arms, legs,

fingers, toes, and a long head and facial features. The boy's ancestors were traced back nine generations to the great-great-grandfather of President Lincoln, Mordecai Lincoln II.

## Tetanus Immunity in Florida

Tetanus immunity is higher in Florida than in 12 other states studied, four in the South and eight in the North.

Leo Levine and Louise Wyman of the Harvard School of Public Health, who reported the study in *JAMA*, 187:518, 1964, said surveys are especially desirable at this time. A Federal Vaccination Assistance Program, passed in 1962, makes funds available to purchase vaccine against polio, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough for children under five.

## Botulism Antiserum Scarce

Warnings that type E botulism antitoxin, or antiserum, is in limited supply in the United States were sounded in *JAMA*, 187:530, 1964.

Recent outbreaks of type E botulism, the deadly food poisoning that was found in Great Lakes whitefish and in canned tuna in Detroit, indicate that commercial antitoxin should be available in this country. Only a limited supply is now available from Canadian and Danish sources, a *Journal* editorial pointed out. Prompt recognition of the disease and treatment with the appropriate type of antitoxin are extremely important.

• Science News Letter, 85:144 Feb. 29, 1964