

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☞ **BEVERAGE HOLDER** for cars and trucks provides a safe and convenient receptacle for beverages while driving or parked. The holder, consisting of a three-inch aluminum ring with supporting straps of plastic, is mounted on a bracket that is attached permanently to the dashboard or any other flat surface of metal, wood or glass. The glass sits well down in the holder so it does not topple.

• Science News Letter, 86:48 July 18, 1964

☞ **HOME FIRE ALARM**—a safety device for home, apartment, hotel or farm—is only 3 x 3½ x 1½ inches in size. Powered by one size "D" flashlight battery, it requires no wiring. The ivory-colored alarm, which can be hung on any convenient wall, gives off a loud steady blast with any abnormal rise in temperature.

• Science News Letter, 86:48 July 18, 1964

☞ **ELECTRONIC TWEEZER** for tiny parts is made of a new beryllium copper alloy and has a cross-over point design that keeps the points in perfect alignment for the life of the tool. Built-in spring tension makes it self-holding. Its points are ground under magnification and absolutely non-magnetic, providing indefinite tensile life, maximum thermal conductivity and positive contact.

• Science News Letter, 86:48 July 18, 1964



☞ **FLOWER GUN**, shown in photograph, imported from Denmark allows the indoor or outdoor gardener to pick flower or fruit effortlessly with one hand without dropping or reaching. The cutter, designed to hold flower or fruit as it is clipped and until released, is pistol shaped and equally usable with right or left hand. Durable, the cutter is made of super grade tool steel.

• Science News Letter, 86:48 July 18, 1964

☞ **CORD HIDER** keeps electric cords from lamps, radios, television sets and other electrical appliances neat and out of the way. The device is a decorative gray reel around which up to 12 inches of excess cord can be wound safely out of reach of children and pets. It helps prevent tripping and eliminates loose, dangling electric cords.

• Science News Letter, 86:48 July 18, 1964

☞ **LIFE VEST** for boaters inflated in seconds with a jerk of the exposed lanyard connected to a replaceable container of carbon dioxide gas. Compact and comfortable, the vest can be worn even under raincoat or other bad weather gear. It is made of pure rubber coated nylon and can float a fully clothed 250-pound man in a shoulder high face-up position.

• Science News Letter, 86:48 July 18, 1964

☞ **LIQUID LIFTER PUMP** for industry, home or farm, cars and boats is merely attached to a portable electric drill. Pumping six gallons per minute, the pump can be used in a variety of applications: to empty machinery sumps, change oils in compressors and lawnmowers, drain plumbing for repairs, empty and refill hydraulic oil, empty children's wading pools and change water in aquariums. All parts are rustproof.

• Science News Letter, 86:48 July 18, 1964

• Doctors Are Reading •

Heart Attack Predictions Possible

➤ **FUTURE CORONARY VICTIMS** will be found by detailed examination, including a simple blood test for increasing fat content, if a medical study on several thousand men develops successfully. A recently completed study of 3,524 middle-aged men "predicted" 113 cases of unsuspected coronary heart disease, (CHD).

Middle-aged men, 39 to 59 years old, were asked to volunteer for this study in San Francisco and Burbank, Calif. Through a comprehensive medical, personal and chemical examination program, standards for prediction were established.

On the basis of the several blood sample analyses from each volunteer, individuals with a high and steadily increasing amount of fat to protein ratio in their blood were tagged as the most likely "future" coronary cases.

The study also evaluated the relation of diet, occupational stresses and tensions, and personal habits to heart disease. Statistical connections were made, but no cause-and-effect relationships were stated in the report.

From the data obtained in the study, physicians hope to be able to formulate soon a "future" profile of model CHD cases. Work is now underway in this area.

These findings were reported by the Western Collaborative Group Study, consisting of seven physicians, in the Journal of the American Medical Association 189: 103, 1964.

Drugs Check Breast Cancer

Cincinnati physicians, using drugs, have been able to prolong

for an average of two years the lives of 71 patients previously given up as hopeless cases of inoperative breast cancer.

In a combined therapy technique, the team of physicians successfully made use of alkylating agents and hormones (corticosteroids), two types of powerful cancer arresting drugs.

The alkylating agents have been used successfully in test animals to halt advanced carcinomas. However, they were found to be highly toxic to humans. By combining them with hormones, most of the toxic effects seemed to be neutralized and slightly better results were obtained, increasing average life expectancy by two years.

These results were reported by Drs. Herman A. Freckman, Harry L. Fry, Fernando L. Mendez and Elmer R. Maurer of the University of Cincinnati Medical School, in JAMA, 189:111, 1964.

AMA Questions Digitalis Value

The American Medical Association editorially questioned the relative value of conventional chemical stimulation of the heart by digitalis in cases of recurring heart failures.

The condition could be better treated by stimulating the kidney output with diuretics, the editorial stated, in a situation in which the circulatory system is congested and heart attack is perhaps an immediate danger.

The AMA editorial suggested that further work should be done in this "non-traditional" view of heart failure treatment, but said that diuretics are producing "highly favorable" results.

The editorial appeared in JAMA, 189:145, 1964.

• Science News Letter, 86:48 July 18, 1964