

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1259 for sources of new things described. Send a self-addressed envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **BOAT DRAIN PLUG** that allows water to drain from within but prevents it from flowing back into the boat eliminates danger of forgotten plugs. Capable of continuously draining away water while the boat is underway, its pliable lips automatically close by the force of water pressure when not in use. The plug, which fits all standard drain holes, can be adapted to odd sizes with special fittings.

• Science News Letter, 86:80 August 1, 1964

⊗ **COMBINATION-LOCK CABINET** helps serve as a safeguard for keeping medicine, razor blades, chemicals, drugs and other materials out of reach of children and other persons. The small unit is designed to fit into a standard medicine cabinet from which one shelf has been removed. It can also be mounted on any wall in office, factory, truck, boat or wherever needed. Storage space includes one deep shelf and two small shelves.

• Science News Letter, 86:80 August 1, 1964

⊗ **SEE-THROUGH MIRROR** material made of flexible plastic works like one-way glass mirrors. Useful for close-up observation to hobbyists and students studying birds, fish and other animal life, the material is inexpensive and can be cut with scissors to the desired size and shape. When set up, persons on the darker side of the mirror can see through, but those on the lighter side see only their reflections. The material comes in 21- x 36-inch sheets.

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⊗ **DIAMOND POINTED MARKER**, shown in photograph, writes on rocks, tools, surgical instruments, machine parts, sports equipment, laboratory glass and other materials as readily as a pencil on paper. The marker, which consists of a diamond point set on the end of an aluminum stem, is no larger than a ball point pen and can be carried in a shirt pocket. It is also useful to homeowners for mark-

ing children's lunch boxes, bicycles or roller skates.

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⊗ **MINIATURE PORTABLE LAMP** that can be folded to form its own carrying handle gives a comfortable light for studying, working, sewing or any other detailed work. Provided with an electronic dimmer control, the lamp can be dialed to give the desired brightness from soft candlelight to bright-high-intensity white light. The small lamp takes little space and its 18-inch completely flexible arm shines the light in any direction desired.

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⊗ **WIPE-AWAY SCORE SHEETS** for baseball scores can be reused indefinitely. The score sheets made of white vinylfilm mounted on a stiff cardboard backing come with a black marking crayon. After each game the marks can be wiped away for reuse at the next game. Mistakes also can be readily corrected by simply wiping with a dry cloth or soft tissue.

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⊗ **INDOOR ELECTRIC GREENHOUSE** with thermostatic control provides an easy way to start seeds, root cuttings or potted plants indoors, and is useful for schools or for science projects. Children can watch plants grow and develop. The unit 16 x 14 x 15 inches in size, contains two planter trays, growing medium, enriched potting soil and a 16-page instruction booklet.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Elastic Suit Prevents "Hypotension" Fainting

► A WOMAN who is subject to fainting spells when she stands up has been helped by a new elastic garment, a report in the Archives of Internal Medicine, 114:145, 1964, stated.

Drugs, elastic stockings, elevation of the head of the bed and use of abdominal binders have had no effect on the syndrome, a team of doctors at Michael Reese Hospital said.

The new elastic mesh suit, which stretches from the ankles to the waist, is called the Jobst counterpressure garment and is commercially available. Pressure decreases toward the top, and the garment can be worn comfortably under clothing, even in summer.

This pressure suit is an important contribution to the treatment of "idiopathic orthostatic hypotension," which means low blood pressure from an unknown cause when a person stands up, Drs. Joel M. Levin, Paul Ravenna and Morris Weiss said.

Health Care During Olympics

U.S. Olympic Games athletes—more than 400 of them—who will go to Tokyo in October should have proper health care, the American Medical Association said editorially in its official Journal, 189:233, 1964.

"Our men and women will be exposed to different environmental conditions, unfamiliar food, water of a different quality, endemic diseases and a new pattern of living," the editorial stated.

The editorial listed problems at previous Olympic and Pan American Games and urged more medical consultation in advance.

The AMA Committee on Medical Aspects of Sports, although encouraging broader use of the existing U.S. Olympic subcommittee on medical services, has been unsuccessful to date.

"In 1960, the members of the track and field team were taken through a rapid series of exhibition meets in cold and rainy weather in Europe and then brought into the searing heat of Rome only a few days before the Games," the editorial said. Tokyo will present problems of perhaps greater difficulty than on any previous Olympic trip.

Diseases Change Like Clothes

The "syndrome shift" may be compared to changing fashions, especially in this year of the "shift."

Syndrome shift, which means a change in symptoms, is seen mostly in patients with disorders involving the central nervous system, whether it is a typical mental disease or a combination of bodily and mental symptoms.

Dr. J. J. Groen, Jerusalem, Israel, said in the Archives of Internal Medicine, 114:113, 1964, that patients sometimes shift to new diseases and then again they can go back to the original disease.

"It is striking how often the shift is from a psychic to a somatic syndrome or vice versa," Dr. Groen said.

• Science News Letter, 86:80 Aug. 1, 1964