

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PROJECTOR MICROSCOPE** for school or home study can be used for both transparent and opaque viewing and for larger objects such as rocks and minerals. The image can be projected on the frosted screen of the instrument, on an exterior screen for group viewing or on a drawing pad for tracing and study. The instrument, which provides magnifications of 5-, 20- or 60-power, has an illuminator for use above and below the stage.

• Science News Letter, 86:207 Sept. 26, 1964

⚙️ **WINDOW SHIELD** is a thin film of tinted clear plastic for filtering sunlight entering through windows in office, store, boat or home. Applied to glass without any adhesive, the shield helps reduce eye strain, fading of textiles, drapery and rugs, and lowers room temperature. The reusable and easily cleaned film is cut to the size of window and pressed onto the clean dampened glass surface.

• Science News Letter, 86:207 Sept. 26, 1964

⚙️ **NEW BATTERY** has a self-contained detector that shows its freshness. The indicator at the top of the 1.5-volt D-cell battery consists of litmus overlaid with clear plastic. As long as the top stays blue, the battery is in good condition. When the battery becomes unserviceable the litmus turns pink.

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⚙️ **MILK DISPENSER**, shown in photograph, for the home refrigerator helps prevent spilt milk and keeps milk fresh longer. A turn of the non-drip dispenser that fits on the mouth of either a half or full gallon milk jug provides the exact amount of milk desired without removing the jug from the refrigerator. Its fully automatic syphon action drains the jug completely.

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⚙️ **TELEPHONE EXTENSION CORD** makes it possible to take the telephone to any room in the house, upstairs, or into the basement and even out-of-doors. The cord keeps the telephone within convenient reach at all times for the busy housewife. The extension cord, 25 feet long, is equipped with a four-prong plug for use with standard plug-in telephones. If greater length is needed, an additional cord may be attached.

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⚙️ **NEEDLE FLAME ALCOHOL TORCH** only five inches high and designed especially for the dental trade is useful also to hobbyists. It uses regular denatured alcohol as fuel. A gentle pressure on the sides of the bottle, weighted with glass balls to prevent tipping, produces a needle point flame at right angles to the torch body. The metal top acts as a flame snuffer and also prevents excessive evaporation.

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⚙️ **MAP READING MODEL** for schools helps teach basic map reading. Designed for either group or individual use, the markable transparent plastic contour sheets demonstrate elevations in 3-D. Helpful in teaching latitude and longitude, direction, map symbols, elevation and contours, and map scale, the teaching package includes a set of 50 project maps for individual student use.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Oswald Like President-Threateners

➤ **PSYCHIATRIC PATIENTS** who had threatened to kill a president of the United States have pasts strikingly similar to that of Lee Harvey Oswald, the assumed killer of President Kennedy, a study indicates.

Six of the ten patients studied had military backgrounds. Four of these six were bitter about their discharges and sent threatening letters to the president, describing their dissatisfaction.

Oswald, too, resented his discharge. He sent an angry letter to John Connally, the Governor of Texas.

All ten had a "severe rage against women" and suicidal tendencies. The basic ingredient in the development of men who threatened presidents' lives, however, was the mother's failure to meet her son's emotional needs as he was growing up.

Dr. David A. Rothstein, staff psychiatrist, U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Mo., reported in the Archives of General Psychiatry, Sept., 1964, that for these men, joining the military meant substituting a larger organization for an unsatisfactory family life. Since the military could not fulfill family needs, it became the object of their frustrations. This feeling soon spread to include the Government and finally the President.

Rare Defect Is Believed Genetic

Hydrometrocolpos, an abnormal wall within the lower abdomen of some newborn girls, has a possible genetic basis, medical researchers have discovered.

The researchers made this discovery by examining genealogic records of two Amish families who had daughters born with this defect. All four parents were found to have had some common ancestors.

This common ancestry is evidence that at least one form of hydrometrocolpos is a recessive trait, researchers said. A recessive trait does not show itself unless both mother and father pass it on.

Drs. Victor A. McKusick, Baltimore, Robert L. Bauer, Intercourse, Pa., C. Everett Koop, Philadelphia, and Roger B. Scott, Cleveland, reported these findings in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 189:850, 1964.

Regular Meetings Help Smokers

Heavy smokers need to visit smoking deterrent clinics on a regular basis if they hope to "kick the habit," says the chairman of Research in Smoking Education.

Dr. David S. Bachman, Allentown, Pa., said that in a study of 110 persons who averaged 40 cigarettes daily, 57 stopped smoking completely after finishing a program that met once a week for eight weeks. Intensive antismoking indoctrination for a single session at other clinics had much less success, he said.

Dr. Bachman reported this in the journal of the American Academy of General Practice, GP, 30:86, 1964.

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