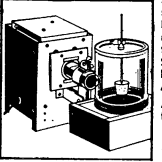


Doctors Trim 2 Inches Off Flabby Waists!

German doctors at the famous Max-Planck Institute have discovered an instant-workout method that can reduce waistlines in 30 days. Called "Isometric Contractions," one 60-second daily workout can reduce waistline fast. No sweat, strain or tiring repetitions. Acclaimed internationally by physiologists, coaches, athletes. Results guaranteed. Free illustrated information. Write AWARD-WINNING ISOMETRICS, Minute Home-Gym, Inc., Dept. B, 37 Centuck Station, Yonkers, N. Y. 10710.

ATOMIC ENERGY LAB

ATOMIC CLOUD CHAMBER WITH PROJECTOR ILLUMINATOR. See the vapor trails of alpha and beta particles, and of cosmic rays from outer space.



SPINTHARISCOPE gives a dramatic, magnified ring-side view of exploding atoms.
ELECTROSCOPE. Metal-housed, with Scale and Magnifying Viewer. Measures background radiation and tests sample sources.
SAFE RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS. Alpha Source in handy container, and Uranium Ore (U₃O₈ 0.229%), Atomic Energy Manual covers theory and projects.

A complete Lab that opens up the fascinating field of Nuclear Physics—only \$695. YOUR SATISFACTION OR YOUR MONEY BACK. AMERICAN BASIC SCIENCE CLUB, INC., DEPT. L-10, 501 E. CROCKETT ST., SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78202

GRAPHIC SPEED FILE

How to Save Filing & Storage Time With DISPOSABLE DRAWERS

You store material easier and find things faster with feather weight box drawers. Strong corrugated drawers give extra service outside cabinet.




Save transfer time -- store or discard drawers with contents -- add economical replacements.

Eight sizes, all interchangeable in steel cabinet. Use singly or in any sequence to fill your needs.

Your material is stored flat. Hinge type drawer lid gives extra protection. Price only \$49.95 plus drawers.

FREE 16 Page BOOKLET No. 10-AE Mailed Without Obligation

GRAPHIC SYSTEMS, Box 398, Yanceyville, N.C.



KIT
\$24.50
Postpaid
Fully assembled
\$39.50

ELECTRO-STATIC GENERATORS
200,000 VOLTS

200,000 Volts, as illus., can be assembled with pliers and screw driver. 17" high, 7" dia. 1.5 to 2.5 microamp current, 0.90% relative humidity range, life of service over 1000 operating hours 110v 60 cycle AC motor insulating column of unbreakable vinyl chloride, oil impregnated bronze bearings, aluminum base, housing, frame and charge collection—5 lbs.

500,000 Volts Kit
or assembled
36" high, 14" alum. oblates and frame . . . kit includes drawings and all necessary parts except motor. Kit \$39.50 postpaid.
"Experiments in Electrostatics"—a book with experiments you can do . . . send 50¢.

FREE catalogs . . . send 15¢ for postage.
Low priced physics equipment for schools and science projects.

MORRIS and LEE
Dept. NL-11A, 1685 Elmwood Ave., Buffalo 7, N.Y.

PSYCHOLOGY

'Perceptual Quotient' Devised for Children

➤ ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS may soon be using a "perceptual quotient," or PQ, to detect children with retarded perceptual abilities.

Like the familiar intelligence quotient, the IQ, this newly standardized PQ compares a child's level of ability with that of his peers'.

But while a low IQ score is accepted as a valid explanation of a child's lack of progress in school, a low PQ score indicates that a child needs help.

Researchers at the Marianne Frostig School of Educational Therapy, Los Angeles, who developed and standardized the perceptual quotient, found that above average PQ scores do not generally indicate future achievement in school, as high IQ scores do.

However, children in kindergarten and first grade with low PQ scores are likely to have difficulty in learning to read and to be poorly adjusted to school.

These early difficulties may be overcome by remedial training and readiness school programs, the researchers stated.

The sub-tests used to evaluate a child's PQ deal with different areas of visual perception. In each test the child attempts a series of carefully graded tasks.

To assess eye-hand coordination, for ex-

ample, the child must draw straight and curved lines between increasingly narrow boundaries, or draw a straight line to a target.

Similar tasks have been developed to measure perception of figure-ground relationships, form constancy, position in space and spatial relationships.

Researchers Phyllis Maslow and Marianne Frostig of the Frostig School, D. Welty Lefever of the University of Southern California at Los Angeles, and John R. B. Whittlesey of the Brain Research Institute, University of California at Los Angeles, reported their work in Perceptual and Motor Skills Monograph Supplement, 1964.

The researchers believe that testing these different abilities enables evaluation of more specific assets and liabilities and study of the relationships between these abilities, school achievement and personality measurements.

• Science News Letter, 86:302 November 7, 1964

Nature Note

The Opossum

➤ THE VIRGINIA OPOSSUM, *Didelphis*, is the only pouched animal living wild in the United States.

A member of the marsupial order, the female opossum has a warm, fur-lined pouch on her abdomen into which creep the tiny babies as soon as they are born, only 12 days after conception. At this time the babies weigh about 1/15th of an ounce—over a dozen could fit into one teaspoon. As soon as the babies struggle into the pouch, they attach themselves securely onto one of her 13 nipples which are no bigger than the head of a pin. If there are more than 13 children in the brood, the excess soon starve to death.

The surviving babies grow rapidly. In about a week they are ten times as large as they were at birth. When they are ten weeks old, they start to emerge from their snug pouch and climb onto their mother's back, holding tightly to her long hair. After about 14 weeks, they are independent and on their own.

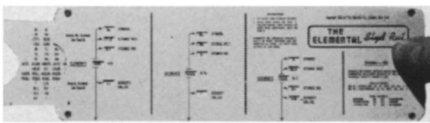
When fully grown, the opossum is an unattractive creature, about the size of a cat, with a pointed rat's face, naked ears and long black or grey hair growing over a dense, creamy-white undercoat. Its tail, bare or scaly and furred at the base, is prehensile and can be used as a fifth paw to hang from a tree or hold onto food.

Considered one of the ugliest and stupidest of creatures in the United States, the opossum has the peculiar habit of "playing possum," or going into a coma-like state of shock when frightened and rolling over as if dead.

Yet this unattractive tree-climbing nocturnal animal is aiding research, for scientists are able to observe the tiny babies at different stages of their embryonic development. Other animal embryos develop inside the mother's uterus and hence are inaccessible.

• Science News Letter, 86:302 November 7, 1964

800 ELEMENT FACTS AT YOUR FINGERTIPS



The Elemental Slyd-Rul tells you, at a glance, symbol, weight, density, number, valences, color, melting and boiling point in °C for 98 elements. An ideal educational aid for science, physics and chemistry students. \$1 postpaid. Student rate: 12 or more, 75¢ ea. Money-back guarantee. Sorry, No C.O.D.'s

THE SLYD-RUL CO., 1040 West Broadway Woodmere, New York

MICRO-ADS

Equipment, supplies and services of special interest to scientists, science teachers and students, science-minded laymen and hobbyists. 25¢ per word, payable in advance. Closing date 3 weeks prior to publication (Saturday).

SNL, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

BINDERS FOR SNL — BUFF-COLORED BUCKRAM. Snap-in metal strips hold 52 copies, \$4.00 pp. Send order with remittance to Science News Letter, 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

FACTS-IN-FIVE! FASCINATING NEW WORD game challenging your ability to recall facts under time pressure. Knowledge of science, arts, history, government, and many other areas tested from basic to difficult levels. Scoring system differentiates between general and specialized ability. Unlimited number of individuals/teams can play. Primarily for adults/advanced students. Ten-day refund guarantee. \$6.50 postpaid. Advanced Ideas Co., 68 Broadway, Arlington, Massachusetts.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT A PHILOSOPHY based on natural, not supernatural, phenomena, write to the American Humanist Association, Dept. SNL-3, Humanist House, Yellow Springs, Ohio.

FREE PAPERBACK CATALOGUE. GREAT SAVINGS. New York Paperback-Record Club, 4-H West 43rd Street, New York City 10036.

SURPLUS WIRED IBM MEMORY PLANES SOLD for pennies on the dollar. Inquiries invited. Meshna, Lynn, Mass.