

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **WHEELLESS LAWN MOWER** floats on a cushion of air. Weighing just 30 pounds and powered by a 2½ h.p. engine, the rotary mower is easy to operate and maneuver. Only finger-tip pressure is required to guide the mower which trims close under trees, shrubs and bushes. Its height of cut can be adjusted from 5/16 to 1-7/16 inches. The mower hugs the ground keeping the blade away from hands and feet.

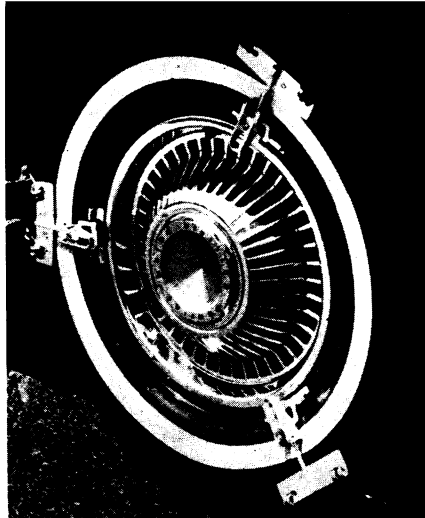
• Science News Letter, 86:304 November 7, 1964

☛ **POCKET TIMER** is a personal time reminder that is attached to a key chain and can be carried in the pocket or purse. The timer, which can be set for periods of five minutes up to one hour, softly buzzes an alarm when the pre-set time interval has passed. It is useful as a reminder for taking pills, making phone calls, keeping important engagements or parking time.

• Science News Letter, 86:304 November 7, 1964

☛ **FLUORESCENT MARKERS** for school or home can write with fluorescent colors on any surface, including paper, leather and plastic. Useful for making posters or signs, for aircraft, or for marking children's bicycles for safety at night, the felt-tipped markers come in five colors. The ink in the markers dries instantly and is smear-proof and waterproof.

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☛ **CLIP-ON TIRE CHAINS**, shown in photograph, can be quickly placed on tires without jacking even if vehicle is mired in snow or mud. Easily installed clips are permanently fastened to the inside and outside rim of the back wheels and a cross chain assembly is then fastened to the clips and across the tire whenever traction is required. Sizes are available for U.S. and foreign cars, and light trucks. No special tools are required.

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☛ **"AFTER FIVE" COFFEE TABLE** is a walnut grain Formica top circular table 36 inches in diameter with a 17-inch circular clock face at its center. The clock dial, having brushed copper finish and walnut hour markings, is covered with a heavy dust-tight plate glass crystal sealed in place. The clock movement is powered by a mercury battery that will operate the clock for approximately two years.

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☛ **MULTIRULE CALCULATOR** provides children in grades five to eight with a wide range of mathematical activity from ratio, proportion and fractions to the use of the slide rule. The device, consisting of two matching straight-edge scales numbered from 1 to 100, helps children learn to use the slide rule by themselves. A teacher manual comes with each set of six multi-rules.

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☛ **THERMAL WIRE STRIPPER** that protects the operator against burns, automatically centers the wire to be stripped over the warmest area. The stripper, built like hand pliers, is flexible and easy to operate, and can be utilized in the tightest quarters without burning adjacent wires. The tool is supplied with a compact control box, treadle rest to turn off power and on-off indicator light.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Better Helmets Needed to Avoid Football Injuries

► **THE STEADY INCREASE** in the number of head and neck injuries in football calls for better helmets, a physician indicated in GP, 30:106, 1964, Journal of the American Academy of General Practice.

Head and neck injuries are responsible for 72% of all deaths directly attributed to football, said Dr. H. A. Fenner, Jr., Hobbs, N.M. The number of deaths directly due to football injuries over the past 31 years is 539, he said.

A good way to cut down on serious football injuries, he recommends, is to use helmets of tough, durable materials that are not flexible, as are leather and plastic helmets now used.

One helmet in particular that has proved valuable is a model that has a tough fiber glass shell and a nonresilient liner. Its advantages are that it is safer, more comfortable, and does not strike the shoulder pads when the player is in a "football stance."

## Cat-Scratch Disease May Afflict Brain

Cat-scratch disease, an infection caused by virus transmitted through cat scratches, may lead to encephalopathy, an affliction of the brain, a physician reported in Postgraduate Medicine, 36:368, 1964.

If encephalopathy does follow cat-scratch disease, the onset is sudden, with resulting fever, coma and convulsions, said Dr. Fred

S. Brooksaler, University of Texas Southwestern Medical School, Dallas.

## Many Suicides See Physicians Before They Act

About 60% of all persons who commit suicide see their physicians a short while before their deaths, a professor of psychiatry reported in GP 30:133, 1964.

For this reason, Dr. Eugene R. Inwood of the Georgetown University School of Medicine, Washington, D.C., said physicians should be aware of suicide clues. Some of these "cries for help" include feelings of helplessness and hopelessness, or may come out as an exaggeration of physical discomfort.

## Heart Beats Transmitted by Telephone

Transmitting heart beats by telephone has shown to be practical, accurate and easy to perform, a team of researchers reports.

In a three-month study of 71 patients, in which 102 tracings were made, telephonocardiography was found to be extremely valuable in five of the cases. In 11 of the patients, the method was of considerable value in allowing immediate diagnosis for needed treatment.

Drs. Constantine T. Cerkez, B. Bacongallo, George W. Manning and Mr. Gordon C. Steward, all of London, Ontario, reported the study in the Canadian Medical Association Journal, 91:727, 1964.

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