

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **FLASHLIGHT AND PROTECTOR** is a replica of the "billy stick" used in the 1920's. Suitable as a gift for a man, the sturdy flashlight serves as a protective device as well as a flashlight. It comes in a black gift case with a red interior.

• Science News Letter, 86:352 November 28, 1964

⚙️ **DOLL CASTING SET** to stimulate a child's creativity, is a kit for molding a whole family of dolls and pets. The set includes a thermal unit, a non-toxic molding compound, molds, cooling tank and paints. The molding material, gently melted by the heat of an electric light bulb, can be used over and over again. A military casting set and accessory kits of many different molds are also available.

• Science News Letter, 86:352 November 28, 1964

⚙️ **CANDLE SCONCE** for wall or table top will add a decorative touch to the home. Made of white ceramic and finished in egg shell-toned glaze, the sconce is so designed that smoke marks will not accumulate on the walls. Eleven inches high, it may be used either singly or in pairs.

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⚙️ **GARBAGE CAN BOTTOM**, shown in photograph, for covering rusted or damaged garbage can bottoms, extends the life of

the container indefinitely. The plastic replacement bottom is a circular piece of unbreakable polyethylene that fits inside the bottom of the can and quickly locks in place. Made to fit 20-gallon garbage cans, it will not rust or corrode and is easily cleaned.

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⚙️ **CORK REMOVER ICE PICK** designed on the principle of a tire pump, eliminates the need for cartridges when removing cork stoppers by air pressure. The cork remover, made completely of brass, is inserted into the cork and worked like a pump causing the cork to pop out. It also serves as an ice-crusher and comes in a luggage-type gift case.

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⚙️ **EARLY AMERICAN TOWEL CLIP** holds dish towels, hand towels, pot holders, memos, shopping lists and other items. Made of solid hardwood and 5½x11 inches in size, the towel rack can be finished to match any decor. Two spring clips behind the wooden discs mounted on a flat base exert pressure to hold articles snugly. A slight tug removes the items. Screws for mounting the rack are included.

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⚙️ **TEST TUBE MIXER** that automatically starts to operate as soon as the test tube is inserted into the unit allows the chemist to approach the mixer with both hands full. Useful in chemical or school laboratories, the mixer also has a variable speed control mounted on the front panel which controls agitation, thus eliminating spilling worries.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Bumps May Help Tell Mongolism

➤ **TINY BUMPS** around the eyes called syringoma, so often found in mongoloid idiots, should be included in the diagnosis of mongolism, researchers believe.

In a study of 200 mongoloids at Pennhurst State School in Spring City, Pa., 37 were found to have these lesions around their eyes. Only six of 1,001 nonmongoloid mentally retarded patients in a parallel survey had these lesions.

The incidence in mongoloids was also much greater than that found in normal persons.

Dr. Thomas Butterworth, Reading, Pa., Dr. Lyon P. Streat, Norristown, Pa., Dr. Herman Beerman and Dr. Margaret Gray Wood, Philadelphia, reported their findings in the Archives of Dermatology 90:483, 1964.

## Drugs a Factor in Air Accidents

Taking drugs and alcohol are important causes of aviation accidents, reported a physician in GP 30:86, 1964.

In many cases, self-medication with drugs sold over-the-counter is responsible, said Dr. J. Robert Dille of the Federal Aviation Agency, Oklahoma City, Okla. In other cases, physicians not familiar with flight problems have prescribed drugs to pilots that have brought on air tragedy.

Dr. Dille recommended that medications taken during flight should be used only in the proper dosage, that the pilot should be told of possible effects of a drug by a physician familiar with flying, and that he should be given a preliminary test dosage of the drug, with no flying scheduled for 12 hours.

## Cigarettes Decrease Smell Sharpness

Smoking cigarettes is associated with a decline in the sense of smell, a study indicated.

Five hundred employees of a petrochemical plant were examined to determine if working conditions had effects upon their sense of smell. No significant differences were found in various crafts or between employees working in different plant areas.

However, there was direct correlation found between the number of cigarettes smoked by the employees and a lessening in their sharpness of smell.

Dr. R. E. Joyner, Texas City, Tex., reported these findings in the Archives of Otolaryngology, 80:576, 1964.

## Freezing Favorable in Special Eye Surgery

Low-temperature operations look as though they will be a useful addition to several special areas of eye surgery, stated the Archives of Ophthalmology, 72:590, 1964.

However, it is very unlikely that such operations, called cryosurgery, will ever replace any existing and accepted methods of eye surgery, the editorial said.

Cryosurgery has been used in such eye operations as retinal detachments, cataracts and glaucoma.

Lack of sufficient experience with freezing eye tissues and possible complications were given as reasons why cryosurgery should not be used extensively at this time in eye operations.

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