

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☸ **POLYSTYRENE PANELS** for luminous bathroom ceilings in the home, apartment house or hotel, can also accommodate a heat lamp. The plastic panels come in pre-cut kits for rapid installation. One of the 2x5-foot plastic panel sections has a pre-cut hole for a heat lamp available separately in a wide range of colors and styles. The panels are unaffected by humidity or heat of the lamp.

• Science News Letter, 86:416 December 26, 1964

☸ **PLANTING POT** for seedlings and cuttings contains, in addition to peat, a layer of fertilizer and other plant growth foods at the bottom of the pot. The roots of the plant grow down to the fertilizer, thus assuring luxurious and rapid growth of the transplanted plants. The pots, available in 2¼-inch and 3-inch sizes, may be obtained in quantity lots.

• Science News Letter, 86:416 December 26, 1964

☸ **RADIOLOGY SLIDES** in color on "the production of X-rays and the interaction of radiation and matter," are designed for teaching the fundamentals of X-ray theory to research assistants, students and X-ray technicians. The set, consisting of 30 color slides, includes an illustrated explanatory brochure.

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☸ **CUDDLY PERSONAL DOLL**, shown in photograph, is two feet tall and has the



face of the child to whom it is to be presented. The doll's face is reproduced from a photo of the child and transferred to linen cloth which is moulded and hardened to simulate facial contours and dimensions. The skin tone, color of the eyes and hair are matched to description given. Photos are returned undamaged.

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☸ **THERMOCOUPLE CONNECTOR**, provided with a hand compression tool for performing the operation, simplifies the making of thermocouple junctions, saves time and reduces costs. To use, the connector is placed over the paired thermocouple wires and the connector simply pressed with the forming tool to make a junction. The connector comes in various sizes for different types of wires.

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☸ **WATER FILTER** for water pump systems and bilge pumps can be installed at any point in the intake line. The stainless steel filter, which stops foreign material such as water tank deposits and bilge debris from clogging the valves of the pump, is encased in a clear plastic housing allowing the operator to see when it is clogged. It is easily cleaned by simply removing four screws.

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☸ **AUTOMOBILE TIMER** helps check the elapsed traveling time between two points and the mileage from one point to another and thus the consumption of gas during the trip. Held on the dashboard or any metal surface by means of a magnet, the timer can also be set to avoid overtime on parking meters. Other uses include timing long-distance calls, keeping score for golfers, tennis and baseball players.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Hormone Lowers Fat Levels

► **HIGH FAT LEVELS** in the blood of "coronary-prone" persons can be abolished by injection of ACTH, or corticotropin, one of the hormones of the pituitary gland, before meals.

Reporting in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 190:959, 1964, Drs. Meyer Friedman, Sanford O. Byers and Ray H. Rosenman of San Francisco said they also had tried injecting ACTH into patients with Addison's disease, but that their fat levels were unchanged. Addison's disease is a serious ailment caused by abnormal functioning of the adrenal glands.

Blood samples were obtained after a 13-hour fasting period, and 15 hours after drug injection. A test meal was then given consisting of two eggs fried in butter, four strips of bacon, two slices of buttered toast, 750 milligrams of whole milk and 250 milligrams of cream.

The single administration of 80 units of ACTH alone lowered the fat levels just as drastically as did the combined dosage of ACTH with hydrocortisone. The researchers said additional investigation would be needed.

Arteries Transposed in Siblings

A rare case in which both an infant brother and sister had the aorta and pulmonary artery transposed was reported in *JAMA*, 190:969, 1964.

The girl, who lived 19 months, died unexpectedly while waiting

for a heart operation. The boy lived only two weeks. Autopsy showed that the two hearts were similar in most respects.

Genetic factors in congenital heart disease are not well understood, and studies on all the other members of this family who live in Omaha, Neb., have been unsuccessful in tracing these factors.

Drs. H. T. Lynch, R. L. Grissom and P. Mooring, with A. Krush, all of the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, reported the study. They said medical genetic literature reveals only one other autopsy confirmation of the transportation of the great vessels in siblings.

Disappearing Bones Explained

Cases in 12 different countries have been reported in which one or more bones seem to vanish completely or partially melt away. The condition usually affects children or young adults and rarely results in death.

An editorial in *JAMA*, 190:1005, 1964, calls attention to a report in the *Archives of Pathology*, 78:673, 1964, supporting the theory that the condition is promoted by a decrease in local circulation.

Dr. L. Whittington Gorham of the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, New York, and Dr. William T. West of New York State University, Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, experimented with mice to show bone reactions and accompanying circulation changes.

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