

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1282 for sources of new things described. Send a self-addressed envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **AUTOMATIC TV CONTROLLER** is useful in households where limiting TV viewing by children is desired. The device is a timer that can be set at "on" and "off" times. The cord of the controller is inserted into any AC outlet and the television set is plugged into the receptacle of the unit. At the preset times everyday the TV will automatically go on and off. For adult watching of TV at other times, the manual on/off lever is used. Other applications of the timer include controlling lights and appliances.

• Science News Letter, 87:32 January 9, 1965

⊗ **DESK PENCIL SHARPENER** for children or adults is made with a large container for shavings and is encircled with a world map with meridian lines and a world time clock. Useful at home, school or office, the correct time anywhere in the world can be easily and quickly found on the sharpener.

• Science News Letter, 87:32 January 9, 1965

⊗ **BI-FOLD DOORS** made of ponderosa pine have decorative grillwork in Venetian and Italian styles. Designed for interior use they come in two- and four-door units complete with hardware and knobs and in a variety of sizes. The light-diffusing and see-through qualities make them suitable for kitchen and living room as well as playrooms. They are also useful for closets and storage areas where free flow of air is desired.

• Science News Letter, 87:32 January 9, 1965



⊗ **VORTEX-ACTION SHAKER**, shown in photograph,  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in size, agitates individual test tubes, flasks and bottles up to 40mm in diameter in a one-handed operation. The user holds the sample against the oscillating neoprene cup while his palm depresses the broad switch plate. By varying the pressure and angle of the vessel, the degree and rate of mixing can be controlled.

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⊗ **STAIN REMOVER** that comes as a scented cream in a tube, harmlessly removes from the skin common laboratory stains such as iodine, methylene blue, hematoxylin and even silver nitrate and potassium permanganate. The cream, also capable of removing printing and duplicating inks, can be used on instruments and laboratory coats. To clean, the remover is rubbed on the stained area and then washed off with water.

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⊗ **TRANSPARENT GLASS PAINTS** provide creative fun for both children and adults. The easy to use transparent paints brush on readily to convert glass bottles, jars, glass bricks and odds and ends of glassware into richly colored vases, lamp bases and other decorative objects. The paint can also be applied on metal, plastics, ceramics, porcelain and foil. The set includes nine colors and thinner.

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⊗ **NEW FLUORESCENT BULB** closely approximates natural daylight, allowing truer colors to be perceived indoors. Especially useful for department and apparel stores and food shops where color perception is of major importance to sales, it comes in lengths from 24 to 96 inches. The non-glare light is also suitable for office buildings, schools and factories, as well as the home.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Food Poisoning From Galvanized Containers

► A WARNING has been issued against using galvanized containers for preparing and storing foods following two instances of mass food poisoning.

The warning came from medical scientists at the University of Rochester in a recent bulletin of the department of pharmacology.

The incidents, which affected about 350 persons, occurred in California. The food poisonings caused an assortment of severe stomach cramps, diarrhea and nausea, but no fatalities were reported.

Containers are galvanized, or zinc coated, to prevent corrosion under normal use. However, acids in foods, especially when cooked, may make some of the zinc dissolve into the container's contents.

## Men Retire for Poor Health

Poor health is still the big reason for men choosing to retire, a recent Social Security Administration survey showed. The survey also indicated, however, a trend toward retirement because of a preference for leisure.

In a report based on personal interviews with a cross-section of recent male retirees, 41% gave poor health as the reason for retirement. In a 1951 survey, 48% said that poor health brought on retirement.

The latest report, one of a series in the 1963 Survey of the Aged, also disclosed that 20 out of every 100 recent retirees over 65 and

in good health chose to leave his job because he preferred leisure. This is compared to only 3 out of 100 men who gave this choice in the earlier survey.

The report also revealed that 96% of the aged working men, who planned to stop work or work less, would be eligible for retirement benefits, indicating that these benefits are an important factor in voluntary retirement.

The survey was described in Public Health Reports, Dec. 20, 1964.

## Hidden Disease Causes Fainting

A recent study of persons complaining of fainting spells showed that two out of three are suffering from a hidden disease called spasmophilia, a French physician reported.

The disease, which is marked by sensitivity of nervous and muscular tissue and sometimes by convulsive seizures, is simple to diagnose and treat, said Dr. Henri Pierre Klotz, Beaujon Hospital, Paris.

The test for spasmophilia consists of tying a tourniquet on the patient's arm and having him breathe several times as deeply as possible. If there is a spasm of the facial or hand muscles, the disease is present.

Treatment of spasmophilia with calcium and vitamin D brings spectacular results, said Dr. Klotz, who reported his research in Medical World News, Dec. 18, 1964.

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