

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **SPRAY CLEANER** removes spots from most fabrics without leaving a ring. The spot remover comes in an aerosol container only $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches long provided with a clip and can be carried in the pocket, handbag or placed in the desk. Usable on wallpaper, rugs and upholstery as well as on clothing, the cleaner is sprayed on the spot, allowed to dry and then flicked off, taking the spot with it.

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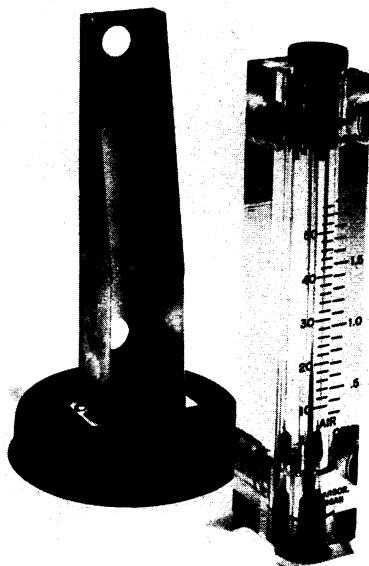
⚙️ **ELASTIC BANDAGES** allow body movement without constriction. Shaped to resemble the letter "H," the sterile adhesive dressing is suitable for knees, elbows, hands or chin. Useful in hospitals, industrial firms and school athletic departments, the bandages, made of elastic cloth, expand and contract with body movements. They are packed in cartons of 50 or 100.

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⚙️ **LIQUID SPRAYER** for dressing table or kitchen has a variety of uses. Made of brass, fingertip pressure releases a dampening mist for moistening hair, sprinkling clothes for ironing, spraying disinfectant, cleaning windows and mirrors or watering plants. Weighing less than six ounces, it holds about eight fluid ounces.

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⚙️ **DUAL-SCALE FLOW METER**, shown in photograph, for measuring flow of liq-



uids and gases comes with parallel face calibrations in both liters and cubic feet, thus eliminating needless calculations. Made to mount on equipment or for bench use, the flow meters are made with either nylon or stainless steel flow-control valves. Available in several sizes, the smallest model measures one-half to two liters per minute or one to four cubic feet per hour.

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⚙️ **POWER BALLAST** makes fluorescent lighting possible for boats, camping or portable lighting. The transistorized unit, capable of operating a fluorescent lamp from a 12-volt DC battery, is about the size of a king-size package of cigarettes and can be incorporated into most lighting fixtures. It is used with a heat sink, not included, such as a reflector or metal of sufficient size, to absorb the heat generated by the transistor.

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⚙️ **POLYETHYLENE BOX TRUCK** for institutions and industry is compact and lightweight. Mounted on swivel casters, the truck has a capacity of 96 gallons or 500 pounds, and its external dimensions are $35\frac{1}{4} \times 25\frac{3}{8} \times 27\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Useful for carting packages, linens, dry cleaning and other items, it is resistant to chemicals and scratching or discoloring, and resilient enough to cushion blows without damage.

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⚙️ **TIRE REPAIR KIT**, for repairing punctures in tubeless tires, includes a free air gun in a special introductory offer. The kit contains 50 plugs, 50 plastic guide tips, a can of vulcanizing cement, a probe and a trimmer. The rubber plugs, made with one end flared, are injected into the hole under pressure with the air gun and form a permanent seal. The flared end prevents the plugs from working out of the hole.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Children's Hearts Screened

➤ **EARLY DISCOVERY** and treatment of children's heart disease is the aim of a dozen mechanized screening programs in schools of the United States.

A type of portable tape recorder screening in Lancaster County, Pa., is reported in Public Health Reports 80:259, 1965, but better machines will soon be announced. A small transistorized portable computer that would eliminate tape is most promising.

The Lancaster County screening recorded more than 4,000 children's heart sounds with the aid of the advisory committee of the Heart Disease Control Program of the Public Health Service.

Twenty children in all had heart trouble, and it was estimated that between four and five children per 1,000 had heart disease in Lancaster County. The Heart Disease Control Program loaned the screening equipment.

Besides Dr. Levy, Dr. Myron M. Rubin of Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster, Pa., Dr. Charles R. Hayman, now with the District of Columbia Department of Health and Mrs. Helen Bushnell, project coordinator for the Lancaster Chapter of the American Heart Society, reported the study.

Myasthenia Gravis, Thyroid Link Studied

The relation between myasthenia gravis and thyroid disease remains uncertain. However, the muscle-weakening disease has been

linked to hypothyroidism, a condition caused by underactive thyroid.

A report in the British Medical Journal, March 20, 1965, from New End Hospital, London, contradicted previous studies showing hyperthyroidism, caused by an overactive thyroid gland, to be far more commonly related to the disease.

In eight cases of myasthenia gravis, three physicians reported five patients were hypothyroid and three were hyperthyroid.

Drs. B. M. Sahay, L. M. Blendis and Raymond Greene reported the study, which included 260 cases of myasthenia gravis in all. The rarity of thyroid relationship is shown in the small number found. Since this study was made, Dr. Blendis went to Hammer-smith Hospital, London.

Earlobe Piercing Method Recommended

The revival of earlobe piercing for earrings, which showed a decline in the 19th century, has caught the family physician without proper textbook direction.

In Medical Times, April, 1965, Dr. Franz S. Steinitz of Chicago tells the doctors how to use a "surgically sound and time-saving" method that he worked out for himself after observing nonprofessional people engaging in this type of "surgery." Young women should never try to pierce their own ears. This procedure is strictly for the doctor.

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