

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **FOOD COATER-MIXER** is a time-saver for the busy housewife. Useful for flouring chicken, breading chops, tossing salads and even mixing beverages, the mixer consists of a plastic see-through container with a tight screw top held freely on two upright arms. To operate, the necessary ingredients are placed in the unit and the mixer whirls around with just a twist of the wrist.

• Science News Letter, 87:320 May 15, 1965

⚙️ **HUMAN ANATOMY KIT** contains three dimensional replicas of organs of the human body that may be assembled, placed in the accompanying polystyrene body cavity, taken apart and reassembled. Suitable for teachers and children, the kit includes an instruction sheet.

• Science News Letter, 87:320 May 15, 1965

⚙️ **BICYCLE CARRIERS** that can be attached to either the trunk lid or roof of an automobile save valuable car and trunk space. The trunk-lid model accommodates either one or two bicycles, while the roof-model holds one bicycle. The carriers, built of strong steel tubing, can be easily installed without tools.

• Science News Letter, 87:320 May 15, 1965

⚙️ **DISSECTING SET**, shown in photograph, useful especially to college students,



comes in a compartmented plastic case and includes a scalpel, forceps, dropping pipette, scissors, needle, probe and ruler. Made of polypropylene, the case resists rough usage and common laboratory chemicals. The hinged case, which is self-locking, can be conveniently carried in the pocket.

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⚙️ **EYEGLASS DEVICE** helps solve the problem of loose-fitting and slipping eyeglasses. The device, a small latex rubber

ring shaped like a ridged doughnut, slips over the bow of the glasses and when secured over the hinges at the temples, provides just enough tension to keep the glasses comfortably in position. The device may be used on one or both hinges as needs indicate. They also help prevent the hinge screws from falling out.

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⚙️ **TOOTHPICK DISPENSER** releases one toothpick at a time. The toothpicks, protected from dust, are released into a grooved tray which is pulled out each time a toothpick is desired. Made of fruitwood-finish pine and $6 \times 3\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size, the dispenser can be hung on the wall or placed on a counter. Holding a regular box of toothpicks, the lid lifts off for refilling.

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⚙️ **BLACK LIGHT INSECT TRAP** that destroys flying insects, including flies and mosquitoes, is useful around the home, in patio, garden or swimming pool area, and in barns and service stations. The electrically operated 10- x 9-inch unit uses a 22-watt black light lamp. The insects, attracted by the black light, are drawn into a bag attached to the bottom of the device and trapped. No insecticide or chemicals are used.

• Science News Letter, 87:320 May 15, 1965

• Doctors Are Reading •

Skin Cancer Treated With Drug

► **SKIN CANCER** and precancerous tumors associated with chronic sunburn have been treated successfully for the first time by direct application of antitumor drugs normally used for internal treatment of cancer.

Dr. Edmund Klein of Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, N.Y., reported that the drugs caused regression of both primary and metastatic, or spreading, cancers. One compound, called 5-fluorouracil, caused tumors to grow smaller or disappear in nine out of 10 basal cell carcinomas and the chronic sunburn type called solar keratoses. Some of the patients have not had skin tumors recur for three years.

Secondary tumors, which are traced to primary tumors inside the body, have receded after a seven-day application of the same drug. In one case, a deep skin lesion caused by cancerous cells from a tumor in the colon was entirely healed. Even when the patient died two and a half years later because of the colon cancer, the skin lesion had not returned.

Dr. Klein has treated more than 500 primary skin cancers in some 100 patients with topical drugs. He said radiation therapy used with the drugs is more effective than if either treatment is used alone. A report on his work appears in *Medical World News*, 6:18, 1965.

Fasting, Then Feeding Speed Up Enzymes

When male rats were fed no food for 48 hours and then were given a fat-free diet containing 21% casein and 58% sucrose, the activity of fatty acid synthesizing enzymes increased in the rats' livers, it was reported in *Nutrition Reviews*, 23:144, 1965.

At the end of the two-day fast, the total fatty acid synthesis had been reduced by 80% to 90%.

When the rats were fed the fat-free diet for two days afterwards, however, the fatty acid synthesis increased by 600% to 1,200% above the level before the fast.

New Powder Hastens Wound Healing

Proof that human wounds heal faster when treated with an experimental powder has been reported.

The powder, made from the windpipe cartilage of a calf, was used for the first time on wounds of a group of 15 persons. "Control" wounds, unpowdered, were compared with them.

The report, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 192:352, 1965, describes results on the 15 volunteers. Small, paired skin incisions were made in precisely corresponding body sites. In each case, one wound was treated with the powder, the other was not.

After 7- to 14-day intervals, the tensile strengths of the wounds were tested and it was found that in 12 of the 15 pairs, the powder-treated wound was stronger. The overall strength increase was 42%. Three volunteers showed no difference in wound strength because they had been treated with inactive powder. No experiments were made with wounds less than six days old.

Drs. John F. Prudden and John Allen of the department of Surgery, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the Presbyterian Hospital, New York, who reported the study, had had earlier success but had not done a controlled experiment. SCIENCE SERVICE reported the original study in 1963.

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