

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **OIL SAVER** is an induced draft system that helps prevent excessive loss of heat up the chimney of residential oil furnaces and creates a clean smokeless flame, thus decreasing heating costs. By using the unit, smoke and soot are reduced, minimizing servicing requirements and providing smoother operation in the furnace. The system, designed to be placed on the furnace flue collar, is easy to install and also provides an additional protective switch to the furnace.

• Science News Letter, 87:400 June 19, 1965

⊗ **WINDOW DISPLAY RACK** holds up backgrounds of plywood, fabric or paper for windows, fashion shows, exhibits and other similar purposes, without nails, wires or framing. The adjustable rack, which extends more than 10 feet high, is provided with top and bottom tracks 1½ inches wide by 40 inches long. The materials are held securely in the tracks with thumb screws.

• Science News Letter, 87:400 June 19, 1965

⊗ **MILDEW PREVENTIVE**, a non-toxic paint additive, provides protection inside or outside the home against mildew and fungus growths. The chemical, when mixed with any standard paint, prevents the formation of mold on the painted area. Because it is non-metallic, the substance will not cause staining in paints exposed to industrial fumes. One fluid ounce will treat one gallon of paint.

• Science News Letter, 87:400 June 19, 1965



⊗ **SEMI-MICRO CENTRIFUGE**, shown in photograph, with speed control graduated directly in centrifugal force makes it easy for the user to reproduce settings exactly. Useful in both biological and industrial laboratories, the one-ml.-sample unit is equipped with a timer, allowing operation without monitoring. The specimen tubes are placed in a slotted head, which can be removed along with the tubes after processing is finished, thus avoiding tilting or spilling.

• Science News Letter, 87:400 June 19, 1965

⊗ **ADHESIVE CLIP** is a button-sized plastic clip with an adhesive back that clings with finger-tip pressure to wood, metal, glass or any other smooth surface. Useful for posting reminders, signs, greeting cards and other items, it eliminates the need for thumb tacks, tape or staples. The plastic clip holds items with a secure grip, and the adhesive, made of a wax compound, can be used over and over again.

• Science News Letter, 87:400 June 19, 1965

⊗ **REFUELING PUMP** for campers or boaters in remote areas, is useful especially for refueling small outboards with built-in fuel tanks. The device pumps gas directly from a can or drum, thus preventing sloshing or spilling the fuel even in rough waters. It is also convenient for filling power mowers. The neoprene collars of the pump will fit any container.

• Science News Letter, 87:400 June 19, 1965

⊗ **SWING ANCHOR KIT** helps prevent children's swings from tipping and eliminates the need to adjust and reanchor the swing legs frequently. Contained in the kit are four forms which are attached to the legs and then filled with a concrete mix, obtained separately, to provide about 22 pounds of weight around each foot of the swing. Suitable for swing legs up to 2½ inches in diameter, the forms anchor the swing but still allow it to be moved from place to place.

• Science News Letter, 87:400 June 19, 1965

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Maternal Decompression May Improve Babies

➤ **MORE INTELLIGENT** and healthier babies are believed to result from the increased amount of oxygen in the fetal blood that is provided when mothers are decompressed during pregnancy, an article in *Discovery*, 26:11, 1965, reported.

Dr. O. S. Heyns, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa, who says he "hit upon" decompression in 1954 as a means of easing the pain of childbirth, is now aiming at treatment that will improve the brain structure. Abdominal decompression is the creation of a vacuum that lifts the abdominal wall away from the uterus.

High intelligence quotients of 138 and above already have been found in babies born of decompressed mothers, Dr. Heyns said.

Dr. Heyns believes there is a lack of oxygen in the placenta, and as a result, a lack of oxygen in the forming infant. Decompression of the mother first increases the blood flow, with most value on the fetal side, and then it increases the amount of oxygen in the fetal blood to normal requirements.

## Smoking May Not Affect Body Weight

Contrary to earlier findings, smokers and nonsmokers do not seem to differ significantly in their body-builds.

A study of smokers and nonsmokers at age 18 and again 14 years

later revealed no significant statistical relationship between smoking behavior and body-build characteristics such as weight, height, calf circumference, distance between the shoulders, distance between the hips.

However, an earlier Harvard University study found smokers to be generally heavier and larger on a number of bodily dimensions, Drs. Norman Livson and Louis H. Stewart of the Institute of Human Development, University of California, Berkeley, reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 192:806, 1965.

Therefore, the researchers point out that "at this stage of investigation, it would appear that the relationship between morphology (form and structure) and smoking is as yet unknown."

## Gradual Withdrawal of Anticoagulants Best

Persons who have been taking anticoagulant pills over a long period following blood clots should stop the treatment very gradually, two Manchester, England, researchers advise.

Fresh thrombotic, or blood clotting, attacks, it is believed, are more likely to occur shortly after anticoagulation is withdrawn. This may be due to "rebound" hypercoagulation in the blood, when treatment is suddenly stopped, Dr. L. Poller and Jean M. Thomson, both of Withington Hospital, Manchester, reported in the *British Medical Journal*, June 5, 1965.

• Science News Letter, 87:400 June 19, 1965