

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ELECTRIC UPHOLSTERY SHAM-POOER** for quick cleaning of most upholstery is an easy-to-use cordless device. The lightweight unit has a four-battery motor and is designed with two brush heads: a small one for spot cleaning and a larger brush for larger areas. The set includes an aerosol can of upholstery shampoo and comes in a storage case with handle. The batteries are not included.

• Science News Letter, 87:416 June 26, 1965

⚙️ **ELECTRIC STOP CLOCK** useful for timing and analyzing operations, experiments and other processes has an easy-to-read dial. Accurate and of rugged construction, the instrument is immediately resettable and has an instantaneous start-stop push button. Two models are available: one reads seconds and tenths, the other minutes and tenths.

• Science News Letter, 87:416 June 26, 1965

⚙️ **FISH-LOCATING GLASSES** permit the fisherman to look down to 10 feet or more below the surface of a pond, lake or stream and see the fish he hopes to catch. The glasses are made of Polaroid and form a little "dark room" around the eyes so that only light passing through the lenses reaches the eyes. They completely eliminate bright water reflections and stray light rays. Thus the eye pupils open up and see more with less strain. The glasses are also helpful to swimmers and divers.

• Science News Letter, 87:416 June 26, 1965



⚙️ **INSTANT DRYING ENAMEL** colors that provide vivid long-lasting finishes for model cars, knickknacks and other items come in aerosol cans for hobbyists and do-it-yourselfers, as shown in photograph. Available in 18 bright colors, the enamel is also available in ¼-ounce bottles for touch-up and decorative design purposes. The paint is lead-free.

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⚙️ **ASTRONOMY TEACHING AID** for schools contains nine separate units for

teaching astronomy to students at all grade levels, either individually or in groups. The set, which helps students obtain a basic understanding of astronomy and the interrelationships between earth, sun, moon, planets and stars, includes a planetarium celestial globe and star charts. Each of the nine units includes a teaching manual.

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⚙️ **ROOM DIVIDERS**, useful for setting off areas in the home to provide study corners, dining nooks or other special activity spots, give elegant styling at moderate cost. The dividers are made with plastic inserts, either in amber or olive green, that simulate the aged appearance of old stained glass. Framed in virola mahogany, the panels extend from floor to ceiling and are adjustable.

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⚙️ **FLEXIBLE CIRCUIT KIT** enables electronic engineers to make prototype circuits at their desks in minutes instead of days, and then test them under operating conditions. The kit contains all the basic materials necessary for making the circuits except water and the light source. In the simple four-step process, the circuit is outlined with tape on plate glass and the system exposed onto photosensitive copper-Mylar laminate, which is then developed and etched.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Gland Absence Linked to Skin Disease

➤ **DISCOVERY** of complete absence of the oil-secreting, or sebaceous, glands of the skin in an inbred strain of mice could shed light on hereditary skin diseases in humans.

The spontaneous appearance of a previously undescribed mutation in the BALB/c strain of mouse can be of "considerable value," two scientists at Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, Calif., said in *Science*, 148:1471, 1965.

Short, sparse albino hairs reveal the spontaneous appearance of the condition as early as seven days of age. Baldness increases until the mice are adult, when loose, fine scales appear among the hairs. As the animals age, they become blind.

Skin transplanted from normal mice resulted in increased hair growth in spite of the lack of sebaceous glands. In control homo-transplants no hair growth was stimulated, and scaling continued.

Drs. Allen H. Gates and Marvin Karasek, who reported the research, said that tests of epidermal lipid fat synthesis can now be better studied in the mice lacking sebaceous glands.

## Patch Test for Mascara Allergy False

Mascara, used to beautify eyelashes, can ordinarily be used without irritating the skin. Some patch tests to determine a woman's allergy to the cosmetic have even been wrong in indicating sensitivity, a California physician reported.

Dr. Ernest Epstein of the University of California San Francisco Medical Center and the San Mateo Medical Clinic revealed that

he had "mistakenly told several women that they were allergic to mascara" because he used occlusive patch tests advised in standard tables of procedure. These "closed" tests result in misleading irritation due to solvents and can be avoided by using the so-called open or nonocclusive patch test.

All patch tests are applied to the middle of the back for 48 hours and studied 30 minutes after the patch is removed. Waterproof patch test plasters are "occlusive," while the nonocclusive type consists of covering the applied mascara either with a gauze-and-tape strip or only with a highly porous tape. Dr. Epstein reported his conclusions in *Archives of Dermatology*, 91:615, 1965.

## Heart Disease Risk in High Blood Sugar

High blood sugar levels could be more important than either cholesterol or high blood pressure in causing coronary heart disease, a group of University of Michigan researchers reported.

After surveying nearly all of the 9,500 inhabitants of Tecumseh, Mich., they suggested that a non-diabetic rise in the level of sugar in the blood be considered along with other factors studied in this form of heart disease.

Drs. Frederick H. Epstein, Leon D. Ostrander, Benjamin C. Johnson, Millicent W. Payne, Norman S. Hayner and Thomas Francis Jr., with Jacob B. Keller, all of the University's School of Public Health, reported their study in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 62:1188, 1965.

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