

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☼ **ROOM PLANNING KIT** enables a person to see how each room will appear before furniture is purchased or a room is rearranged. The kit, which contains more than 200 push-out pieces to represent furniture in a ¼-inch scale, also includes a color key and instruction booklet. The furniture cut-outs are placed in the desired locations on a scaled sheet on which the floor dimensions are outlined, and a bird's-eye view of the room is obtained.

• Science News Letter, 88:31 July 10, 1965

☼ **SOIL TEST KIT** that allows making on-the-spot tests for nitrogen, phosphorus, potash and acidity (pH) helps take the guesswork out of gardening. By using the tester, a person can tell more accurately how much fertilizer and lime a soil needs. Useful to home gardeners and farmers as well as agricultural teachers, the kit comes with instructions, including information on the pH preference of different plants.

• Science News Letter, 88:31 July 10, 1965

☼ **SAFETY CIGARETTE TRAY** for home or office helps prevent fires. The tray is made with an automatic holder that raises a lighted cigarette placed in it, removes the ash and then returns it to its horizontal position. When a forgotten cigarette is fully burned, it is deposited in the tray. Made of ceramic, the tray comes in four colors in addition to white and black.

• Science News Letter, 88:31 July 10, 1965



☼ **SHOE TOUCH-UP KIT**, shown in photograph, helps keep women's colored shoes clean and neat, free of nicks and scuffs. The handy compact kit contains seven basic colors, black, brown, blue, scarlet, yellow, white and bone. Using the applicator brush and mixing fluid, virtually any shade can be produced to match the shoe color and effectively cover any blemishes.

• Science News Letter, 88:31 July 10, 1965

☼ **JAR COVER AND HOLDER** provides a means of storing small items neatly and dust-free in otherwise discarded empty baby food jars. Designed to screw onto the tops of baby food jars, the covers are made with hooks for hanging on a pegboard. The jars, filled with different items such as buttons, pins, nails or screws, can be labeled and hung from a pegboard in kitchen, work-room or closet.

• Science News Letter, 88:31 July 10, 1965

☼ **SURFACE CLEANING TOOL** for use on metal, plaster or concrete surfaces fits one-fourth-inch drill motors. Made with whirling wheels, the rotary action removes paint or rust quickly and easily from metal, plaster or concrete surfaces, eliminating the need for costly sand-blasting. It is also useful for removing barnacles, rust and paint from steel boat hulls. A built-in shield protects the user.

• Science News Letter, 88:31 July 10, 1965

☼ **MAGNETIC WEATHER GUIDE** keeps the driver of a car informed of the weather and temperature while traveling. The magnetic unit, which can be mounted on any iron or steel dashboard, has a humidity-responsive blue circle in the center that turns purple and then pink as the humidity increases, and when rain is likely. The plastic unit, useful also for boats, home or office, is 3½ inches across its oval dial.

• Science News Letter, 88:31 July 10, 1965

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Stretched Skin Used for Large Grafts

► **SINCE REPLACEMENT** skin for grafting purposes is often hard to come by, doctors are now stretching it to the limit in order to cover extensive third-degree burns.

Skin stretching has a distinct advantage in treating extensive burns when donor sites are quickly exhausted, reported Dr. H. Harlan Stone, Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., in *Medical World News*, 6:26, 1965. Dr. Stone and his colleague, Dr. Lovic W. Hobby of Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, have been able to expand a graft's width about two and one-half times by enclosing a solid skin autograft in a plastic "sandwich" and perforating it into a patch.

So far the physicians have treated some 44 patients with the stretched skin patch and have reportedly obtained a "striking" success rate with the grafts.

In other work two Hungarian physicians have been successfully using grafts from cadavers to cover third-degree burns.

Drs. Yanosh Novak and Zoltan Zabroski of the Budapest Central Hospital have used preserved skin flaps taken from cadavers under the age of thirty. So far they have reported the recovery of 15 patients with third-degree burns covering as much as 65% of the body surface.

## Soap-Induced Abortion May Be Fatal

Soap-induced abortions can be and too often are fatal if not diagnosed and treated early.

Drs. Anthony A. Deep and Ivan Jacobson, New York, reporting in the *Current Medical Digest*, 32:533, 1965, warned that curettage (the removal of material from the walls of a cavity) or hysterectomy may be necessary if treatment is to be effective. This radical action should be taken in order to remove the source of the chemical toxin and thus prevent it from being absorbed through the pregnant uterus.

In a recent review, the survival rate of patients treated surgically was about 60% whereas in those treated conservatively it was 25%. The doctors emphasized that soap-induced abortions necessitate a different kind of treatment than septic abortions produced mechanically.

## Bed-Wetting Psychological

Bed wetting beyond infancy and very early childhood is a problem in many families. It isn't an easy one to solve.

When a child persists in wetting the bed at night, long after it might reasonably be expected that parental efforts at training would have succeeded, it is appropriate to become concerned. Physical reasons for the continuation of this problem are uncommon causes. In most children, emotional disturbances in the child's life seem to be involved, according to *Today's Health*.

Even though the child's behavior may not seem to indicate a problem of this type, it is important to check this possibility rather than to let the bed wetting continue, which may in itself cause considerable emotional tension and upset as the child grows older.

• Science News Letter, 88:31 July 10, 1965