

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☞ **VACUUM CLEANER NOZZLE**, especially useful for reaching small corners and crevices of electronic and laboratory equipment, attaches to a regular vacuum cleaner hose. Made of semi-flexible plastic, it can be bent to reach around corners and its tip may be cut into a variety of shapes for specialized applications. The nozzle can be hung on a pegboard when not in use.

• Science News Letter, 88:64 July 24, 1965

☞ **DRY FILM LUBRICANT**, suitable for lubricating bearings, roller chains and machine parts, comes in an aerosol can with a five-inch snorkel applicator, which can be depressed into any angular position, even around corners, to pin-point the lubricant on hard-to-reach spots. Its chemically inert particles, only 0.6 micron in diameter, have strong surface adherence and do not leach off when exposed to fluids.

• Science News Letter, 88:64 July 24, 1965

☞ **CONVEX PLEXIGLAS MIRROR** relays a panoramic view of a wide area of store, plant production line or warehouse, helping to prevent shoplifting, job accidents, and reduce supervision costs. The Plexiglas mirror will not break and is brighter than ordinary mirrors. Available in diameters of 12 inches to 48 inches, the mirror, which comes with a swivel mounting, can be installed on wall or ceiling.

• Science News Letter, 88:64 July 24, 1965



☞ **BABY TABLE CHAIR**, shown in photograph, converts quickly from a table seat to a car seat. The lightweight chrome frame seat fits onto a table in home, restaurant or outdoors instantly without marring the surface. The seat and back of sturdy plastic are easy to clean. A nylon safety belt holds the child securely, whether in car or at the table. The chair folds flat for storage.

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☞ **THERMAL BLANKET**, equipped with a special insulated layer, provides electric blanket warmth without electricity. The lightweight large-sized blanket, imported from Europe, is made of colorful cotton with a washable plastic backing and is suitable for campers, hunters and other outdoor uses, as well as for patients who require extra warmth in the home or hospital.

• Science News Letter, 88:64 July 24, 1965

☞ **GARDEN MISTING DEVICE** supplies water to plants in the form of a mist. Easy to set up and requiring no plumbing, the device is connected to a garden hose and placed wherever desired by inserting its spiked base into the ground. The gentle, fine mist provides all-over moisture and does not remove or displace soil around the roots.

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☞ **ADJUSTABLE CURVE** drafting instrument forms any circular curve with a radius between $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches and 200 inches. The instrument, which substitutes one instrument for a box-full, provides the draftsman with a wide selection of curves and also allows for exact duplication of existing curves. Made of plastic, it is available with scale calibrated in either inches or centimeters, and has a ruling edge of 12 inches.

• Science News Letter, 88:64 July 24, 1965

• Doctors Are Reading •

New Treatment Combats Drug Comas

➤ **ARMY MEDICAL RESEARCHERS** reported a "dramatic" new treatment to bring would-be suicide victims out of comas brought on by overdoses of drugs.

The treatment involves "hitherto unreported dosages" of a mild psychomotor stimulant, methylphenidate. Results were said to be "often dramatic and never detrimental."

The report, by Col. Robert J. Hoagland, commanding officer of the U.S. Army Medical Research Laboratory in Fort Knox, Ky., stated that 60 individuals in a coma and many in a stupor were treated with the drug.

"During this period no methylphenidate-treated patients died of drug ingestion; 13 of the 60 in a coma awoke within five minutes and another 7 within 20 minutes."

The drug was found effective in nullifying the effects of barbiturates, alcohol, opiates, meprobamate, phenothiazines, chlordiazepoxide, as well as drugs not classified as depressants or tranquilizers.

The results of the research were reported in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, June, 1965.

Leukemia Hits High Income Children

Children from the wrong side of the tracks are far less likely to contract leukemia than their neighbors on the right side of town, a study indicated.

This study, covering a 19-year test period in Colorado, showed leukemia, cancer of the white blood cells, to be from two to

almost four times higher among more privileged children in Denver. Moreover, the rate for farm boys and girls generally was below their city counterparts.

The leukemia death rate "appeared to be about two and one-half times higher for urban children than for those living in rural Colorado."

The research, reported in *Public Health Reports*, 80:573, 1965, was conducted by Dr. John H. Githens, University of Colorado Medical Center, Miss F. Eileen Elliot, Denver, and Lyle H. Saunders, formerly of the University of Colorado Medical Center.

Prolonged Itching Can Be Sign of Cancer

If you are between 47 and 74 years old and have a persistent itching, do not ignore it with the idea that it is just caused by nervous tension. It could mean undetected cancer, a New York dermatologist reports.

Cancer of the breast, stomach, colon or prostate gland has occurred in some of the pruritis patients of Dr. Frank E. Cormia, New York Hospital and Cornell University Medical College. Although uncommon, the itching symptoms of pruritis can be an important sign of malignancy in diverse organs, he said in *Archives of Dermatology*, 92:36, 1965.

In patients with a history of arrested or "cured" cancer, he said, pruritis is highly suspicious of reactivation of the previous malignancy.

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