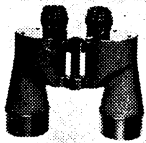


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INVENTION

Current U. S. Patents

A battery-powered 'cigarette' which would allow the inhalation of medication may be the answer to a variety of medical problems.

➤ A NEW BATTERY-POWERED "cigarette" has no tobacco and no smoke, but does contain a replaceable tip moistened with warmed chemicals that could simulate the flavor of anything from root beer to rum.

With the growing fear that cigarettes are unhealthy and perhaps even dangerous, the "time is right for this type of item," inventor Herbert A. Gilbert, Beaver Falls, Pa., told SCIENCE SERVICE.

In addition to being the answer for breaking the cigarette habit, the new "cigarette" has "tremendous medical potential," he said. For example, it could be used to give asthma patients internal medication through the lungs merely by moistening the tip with the medicine. This could work like some of the inhalers now in commercial use.

The new cigarette, about the same size as a regular one, would contain a battery-powered heating element in the form of a bulb or vacuum tube to warm the flavored air. The replaceable tip, made of a porous material such as felt or a plastic, would be moistened by the harmless flavored chemical. When the flavor runs out, the tip is replaced.

Mr. Gilbert, head of Gilbert Iron and Steel Company in Beaver Falls, said that although the device has great potential, it will still take much research and development work to get it on the market. He was awarded patent 3,200,819 for the device.

Contraceptive Device

A Mount Sinai Hospital doctor has received a patent for an improved intrauterine contraceptive. The new device is painless to insert according to inventor Dr. Lazar Margulies, New York, whereas the original Graefenberg ring could be placed in the uterus only under anesthetics.

Dr. Margulies' design is a plastic coil, flexible enough to be straightened, but strong enough to spring into place upon insertion. Diameter ranges from two to four centimeters, obviating the need to dilate the cervix. It received patent 3,200,815. Rights were assigned to Mount Sinai Research Foundation, Inc., New York.

Bee Traffic Control

A newly patented traffic control beehive is designed to keep busy bees from getting into one another's way.

The new device, which earned patent 3,200,419 for Viotti E. Root, Oswego, N.Y., has light- and dark-colored areas, one to attract outgoing bees and the latter for honey-filled bees heading for comb.

The device, which will be air conditioned in the summer and heated in winter, will eliminate traffic congestion at the hive and will subsequently raise the bees' output and morale, the inventor claims.

Other Interesting Patents

An automatic tree farmer that heats, irrigates and fertilizes an orchard has received a patent. The system consists of a series of pipes with discharge heads that serve the two-fold purpose of gas burners and fluid nozzles. Marvin J. Kelly, Merritt Island, Fla., was awarded patent 3,200,539 for the three-in-one system.

Astronauts in two different spaceships may one day use a newly patented orbital vehicle docking system to rendezvous in space. John P. Dunn, Littleton, Colo., was granted patent 3,201,065 for the system, and patent rights were assigned to Martin-Marietta Corporation, Baltimore, Md.

A method and means for producing a plasma, the fourth state of matter, earned a patent for Arlen E. Carter, Newport News, Va. He assigned rights to patent 3,201,635 to the Government through the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

For a list of patent attorneys and agents and other Patent Office information, write the Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, or call 202-967-4058 for specific information.

• Science News Letter, 88:150 September 4, 1965

TECHNOLOGY

Automatic Sculpturing Machine Constructed

➤ TWO HUNGARIAN ENGINEERS have built a machine capable of producing sculpture in half an hour by a photographic process.

The automatic sculptor, reported in Nauka I Zhiznj (Science and Life), will soon be in production.

Outwardly the apparatus resembles a camera. Models sit motionless for 15 seconds in a rotating chair while the camera snaps hundreds of pictures. One-half hour later, features on film have been transformed into sculpture and a statuette emerges.

The new machine may be used for reproducing masterpieces of sculpture as well as more mundane but important industrial objects such as complicated equipment.

Miklos Nogradi and his son Soltan developed the autoscultor which, it turns out, is not the first of its kind. A similar machine was invented in the United States some 30 years ago.

As described in the now-discontinued Science and Invention magazine, this was a device that circled the subject (as opposed to the Hungarian method). A bulb mounted on the camera illuminated each successive feature with a pencil of light.

One method of producing the actual clay or wood portrait was to employ motor-driven tools in tracing the profile.

• Science News Letter, 88:150 September 4, 1965

