

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **AUTO ELECTRIC SHAVER** that helps keep a man well-groomed at all times, allows him to shave right in the car. Suitable for sportsman, camper or traveler, the sturdy compact unit plugs into the cigarette lighter socket and is ready for use instantly. Only three inches high, the shaver comes in a luggage-type gift case that fits into the glove compartment.

• Science News Letter, 88:160 September 4, 1965

⚙️ **ARM-BAND LAMP** provides safety on roads at night for cyclists, hikers and traffic directors. Secured with an adjustable belt on arm or equipment, the lamp is powered by two "C" batteries. Provided with a powerful reflector, it produces a clear light ahead and a brilliant red light to the rear. It can also be used for reading maps or as a signal light.

• Science News Letter, 88:160 September 4, 1965

⚙️ **LABORATORY BATTERY UNIT** suitable for use in schools, science fairs or by hobbyists is made up of nickel-cadmium power cells which can be repeatedly charged. The unit contains a six-cell, 7.2-volt battery with accessories and a recharging kit. The individual 1.2-volt cells may be obtained separately if desired. All cells are encased in nylon and tightly sealed.

• Science News Letter, 88:160 September 4, 1965

⚙️ **RADIANT HEATING SYSTEM**, shown in photograph, is rolled onto the



ceiling like wallpaper for installation. The heating element consists of panels of a flexible "sandwich" of two outer layers of thin vinyl and thread-thin resistance wiring interwoven with nylon net. Plugged into regular household electrical outlet, the system emits waves of radiant energy distributing heat evenly throughout the room. Each has its own thermostatic control.

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⚙️ **SALTWATER TEST KIT** useful to shipowners allows quick on-the-spot checking for the presence of salt water in oil in the ship's machinery, water storage tanks or in fresh water produced by evaporation. The water to be tested is placed in a polyethylene test vial into which an indicator tube is inserted. A clear yellow stain indicates the presence of salt. A calibration and color chart is included in the kit.

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⚙️ **COMPUTER TRAINER** is an educational tool designed for teaching the mechanism of the computer and problem solving. The unit contains all the functions of the computer in simulated form and is made of strong, plastic-finished cardboard on which the student writes with a wax pencil. An explanatory booklet included gives full instructions and programming problems to be done with the reusable parts.

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⚙️ **EMBOSSING MACHINE** is a compact, lightweight desk model that uses 3/4-inch vinyl tape and makes large, readily visible raised-letter labels. Useful in office, shop or plant for labeling shelves, bins, tools and many other items, the unit prints 104 characters vertically or horizontally using the same wheel. A shift of the wheel produces either letters or special markings. The tape comes in a variety of colors.

• Science News Letter, 88:160 September 4, 1965

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Heroin Addicts Helped by Synthetic Drug

► **THE SYNTHETIC SUBSTITUTE** drug methadone, which has been in use with Federal prisoners in Lexington, Ky., since 1948, can now be used for heroin addicts "on their own" to make withdrawal from the habit easier.

Drs. Vincent P. Dole and Marie Nyswander of the Rockefeller Institute and Manhattan General Division of Beth Israel Hospital, New York, reported that the first clinical trials indicate the drug has effectively blocked the cravings for heroin of 22 New York City addicts.

SCIENCE SERVICE reported in 1963 that the American Medical Association had endorsed the use of methadone to tide addicts over until they could be admitted to institutions, although such treatment was formerly feared to be unethical.

The New York researchers report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 193:646, 1965, that they combined extensive counseling with the drug treatment, and that in stages extending over several months the patients are allowed to return to jobs or school.

## External Heart Massage Still Recommended

Far better results with external heart massage than with the open-chest method are reported from the University of Minnesota Medical School.

Several articles and editorials in *JAMA*, 193:659, 1965, give dif-

ferent viewpoints based on five years of experience with the new procedure, credited with saving many lives.

Can external massage deliver sufficient blood to the brain and other organs? Investigators at the Institute for Medical Research, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, University of California at Los Angeles, answer yes, if it is used as a temporary measure.

Two Wilmington, Del., physicians report some hazards, warning that the hard, pumping action can produce fractures of the ribs or breast bone. A 78-year-old woman died after suffering a ruptured aorta caused by too-vigorous massage.

External heart massage must be applied within the four-minute crucial period after regular pulse stops.

## Drug Deforms Palates of Mice Embryos

Triamcinolone, which is a drug used to treat inflammation of skin and joints, produces cleft palates in mice embryos.

Dosages resulting in the defect were found to be well within the range normally administered to human patients, Dr. Bruce E. Walker of the University of Texas Medical Center in Galveston reported in *Science*, 149:862, 1965.

No evidence of the drug's effect on humans is available, but the babies of pregnant women treated with cortisone, a related compound, have long been watched for signs of cleft palate, although such defects have not appeared. Triamcinolone is 200 times more capable of producing cleft palate in mice than cortisone.

• Science News Letter, 88:160 September 4, 1965