

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **ALUMINUM EGG HOLDER** holds four fresh or boiled eggs snugly and securely and helps prevent eggs from breaking. Useful to campers, hikers and sportsmen, the lightweight container has a special compartment for holding salt. The unit has a snap closure with leather hinge.

• Science News Letter, 88:191 September 18, 1965

☛ **SOLDERING IRON HANDLE** for use in clean rooms helps eliminate potential dust and solder contamination while insulating fingers against high temperature. Usable with standard heating line and tips, the lightweight grip made of plastic is designed so that air flowing through by natural convection keeps it cool. Hexagonal in shape, the handle prevents the iron from rolling. The handle comes in soft pastel colors.

• Science News Letter, 88:191 September 18, 1965

☛ **TREE PRUNER CORD** comes in 18½-foot hanks that are just the right length for replacing worn cords on long-reach tree pruners. The all-polypropylene cord, tough, lightweight and long-lasting, is bright orange in color. The rope diameter is sized to fit all tree pruners.

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☛ **GOLF BALL CLEANER**, shown in photograph, keeps a golf ball clean with little effort. The cleaner, which attaches to



golf bag or cart, is a doughnut-shaped plastic case containing a combination detergent impregnated sponge and nylon bristle brush. A single immersion of the ball washer in water keeps the sponge ready for any cleaning requirements all day. The ball is merely pushed through the center hole with a twist and then wiped off with a towel.

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☛ **NEW FLASHERS** for school buses and highway vehicles, as well as for use on road signs, toll booths, lighting displays or other uses requiring warning lights, have virtually unlimited life. Requiring no maintenance, the flashers utilize mercury-to-mercury contacts. Long-lived even under continuous operation, the flashers are available in four standard units, 1.5 kw, 4 kw, 6.6 kw and 10 kw.

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☛ **BALL CASTERS** come in brilliant brass, oyster white and walnut brown designed to suit any furniture. The ball casters are non-marking and are usable on any type of floor covering. Strong, with sealed-in oil-impregnated bearings, the casters move even heavy furniture easily, and will not clog with dust. The wheels, which come in sets of four, are available in several wheel diameter models.

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☛ **SAFETY GUARD** for table model circular saws helps protect the worker from injury. Made of ¼-inch transparent Plexiglas, the shields allow the user to observe all work operations clearly and still be fully protected. Usable on tilted or horizontal surfaces, the glide guard can be used during cutting off, ripping, dado and grooving. The break-proof shields operate separately or together.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Homosexuals Can Be Treated, Perhaps Cured

➤ **ONLY ONE IN FOUR** homosexuals can be "cured" in the sense of becoming attracted to the opposite sex, but physicians and psychiatrists should be prepared to treat the illness, a California psychiatrist says.

The homosexual is one whose personality growth was arrested, or who has regressed to an adolescent level, Dr. Philip H. Heersemma of the department of psychiatry, Stanford University Medical School, Stanford, Calif., stated in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 193:815, 1965.

The psychiatrist distinguishes between "reactors" and "attractors" among homosexuals. The reactors have been subjected to such psychologic forces as a dominant mother, a passive father, a masochistic mother, a brutalizing father or other extreme influences during their formative years.

The attractors are predominantly male, and offer a favorable chance for recovery if they can receive treatment by an understanding, skillful psychotherapist or a psychiatrically oriented physician, Dr. Heersemma says.

Bent Spine Corrected Early

A type of spinal curvature called postural scoliosis can be corrected early if pediatricians look for it when babies are born, a British surgeon reported.

Sir Denis Browne, emeritus surgeon at the Hospital for Sick

Children, London, has devised a scoliosis splint that he describes in the *British Medical Journal*, Sept. 4, 1965.

A baby with postural scoliosis, which results from simple malposition in the mother's womb and not from any congenital deformity, can be kept in the splint 24 hours a day from six months to one year, and at the same time allowed to exercise. The child can be removed for washing and more strenuous exercise.

Enzyme Affects Muscle-Wasting Disease

Scientists could be close to finding the cause of the muscle-wasting disease, muscular dystrophy. An enzyme called cathepsin, one of the catalytic agents responsible for the breakdown of protein, has been found to be significantly increased in experimental muscular dystrophy.

Dr. A. A. Iodice of the Institute for Muscle Disease Inc. and Dr. I. M. Weinstock found in their work with rabbits and chickens that the activity of cathepsin A is definitely increased in both nutritional and hereditary muscular dystrophy.

"It is noteworthy that the skeletal muscle of normal rabbits appears to be almost free of the enzyme, whereas in the breast muscle of the chicken the level of this enzyme is comparatively high and approaches that seen in muscle of the vitamin E-deficient rabbit," the researchers reported in *Nature*, 207:1102, 1965.

The U.S. Public Health Service and the Muscular Dystrophy Associations of America Inc., supported the work. A more complete report is planned soon.

• Science News Letter, 88:191 September 18, 1965