

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **GERMICIDAL TOWELETTES** cleanse the skin without the use of water, soap or towels. The towellettes, made of a soft, strong paper saturated with an antiseptic and germicide are packaged in individually sealed foil packets. Designed especially for hospital patients for whom conventional washing facilities are inconvenient, they are also useful to others where regular washing facilities are unavailable.

• Science News Letter, 88:287 October 30, 1965

⚙️ **SNOW BOOTS** keep the snow out and the pants legs securely inside the boots. A rubber flap attached inside the front of the boot is inserted into the pants cuff "locking" it in and an inner band of plastic foam at the top of the boot acts as a seal to keep out the cold air and snow. The boots which use neither laces nor straps do not constrict the legs and interfere with blood circulation.

• Science News Letter, 88:287 October 30, 1965

⚙️ **NEW AUTOMATIC CAMERA** has a fast-loading system. The camera which has a 45 mm f/2.5 lens accepts any standard 35 mm. film. The user simply drops a cassette of 35 mm. film into the loading chamber, presses the film leader flat and closes the back cover. The camera can be operated manually also for special lighting effects. A wide range of accessories available separately includes a lens hood, flash gun and filter sets.

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⚙️ **AUTOMATIC CARD SHUFFLER**, shown in photograph, shuffles up to three decks of playing cards at one time. Especially handy in games where more than one deck is in use at a time, the device helps speed up a game and eliminates the need to wait for slow shufflers. The unit is battery powered and is made of heavy gauge steel.

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⚙️ **DOUBLE-HEADED NAIL** for fastening outdoor signs on storefronts, houses, poles, or trees, are made of aluminum. Especially designed with two heads, one directly above the other, the inside head holds the sign while the outside head permits easy withdrawal of the nail with an ordinary claw hammer. The sturdy nails are reusable and come in a hinged clear plastic case.

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⚙️ **GADGET GRIPPER** helps organize tools, sporting and gardening equipment and other miscellaneous objects in boat, workshop, home, trailer or airplane cabin. The gripper which can be mounted on wood, plastic or metal with the single screw provided, is made of stainless steel wire covered with plastic and holds the item securely against the wall or other mounting. A loose ring on the free end acts as a pull to release the gripper.

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⚙️ **SHOCK-PROOFING DEVICE** for apartment dwellers, householders and office workers, eliminates shock due to static electricity present in carpeting. The unit activated by a trigger-type pump sprays an invisible substance on the carpeting that neutralizes the static electrical charge but does not affect the wearing properties of the carpet. Application once or twice a year overcomes the problem in most cases.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Home Hair Straightening Harmful

➤ A "REVERSE PERMANENT" or "conk," which is said to have originated with the Jewish people of Germany before World War II, is causing trouble among Negro males.

The home conk may result in minor to severe burns and initiate lymph node swelling in the neck, two Los Angeles physicians reported in the Archives of Otolaryngology.

"The do-it-yourself reverse permanent is made from a paste of potatoes, eggs and lye," the researchers said. "This paste is applied to the scalp and allowed to remain until no longer bearable, then it is rinsed out, and a heavy coat of petroleum jelly is applied to the scalp and allowed to remain for several days."

Drs. Thomas J. McDevitt and Mario J. Acquerelli of Wadsworth Hospital, Veterans Administration Center, West Los Angeles, reported the study. They said an effective treatment has been drainage of the swollen masses and antibiotic therapy.

Parachuting Death Rate High

Sports parachuting and sky diving have a death rate 80 times higher than that of football. Only one in 17,000 parachute jumpers is likely to have a fatal accident, but because of the comparative newness of the "sport" and the fact that fewer Americans engage in it than play football, it has a higher death rate.

Two reports in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 194:259, 264, 1965, point out that the great majority of parachuting

deaths result from inexperience, carelessness and failure to comply with regulations.

Parachutes which fail to open are not the only major cause of accidents, surprisingly. About a third of all recent parachute deaths have been due to drowning when a parachutist accidentally landed in water. Another third have occurred when jumpers opened their parachutes too late, or simply failed to pull the ripcord.

The jumper who makes no effort to open his parachute is an unexplained phenomenon, these doctors say. "Freezing," "blacking out," or losing a sense of distance are some of the explanations for fatal falls, but none of these seems completely satisfactory. An occasional suicidal intent may occur as the result of sudden depression occurring at the time of the jump.

Electrical Currents Corrode Fillings

Weak electrical currents in the mouth play an important part in corroding fillings, it is reported in the British Medical Journal, Oct. 16, 1965.

When dissimilar metals, such as gold or amalgam, come into contact within the mouth, electrical currents are developed. If these fillings are in opposing teeth, a short-circuit that may cause a sharp pain develops when the mouth is closed. When the tongue touches fillings made of dissimilar metals, the current passing through may cause a burning sensation. This may be one of the possible causes of leucoplakia, a thickening and overgrowth of mucous membranes.

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