

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **INVISIBLE ZIPPER** when inserted in a dress, blouse or other garment, closes so that neither the zipper nor the stitching is visible and gives the appearance of a seam. The device is especially useful for clothing for handicapped persons since long, concealed zipper openings can be made in the front or sides of garments where they are easily reached. The zipper comes in several colors and sizes.

• Science News Letter, 89:79 January 29, 1966

⚙️ **TELESCOPING PEN-POINTER** instantly converts from a regular size ball-point pen into a 24-inch baton-like pointer. Useful to teachers, lecturers and students, for pointing out locations on maps, blackboards, charts or slides, it reconverts quickly for use as a pen. The pen-pointer which can be clipped in a pocket comes in a plastic case with an extra refill.

• Science News Letter, 89:79 January 29, 1966

⚙️ **VERSATILE RULER** makes it possible to draw a combination of horizontal and vertical parallel lines without lifting the ruler from the paper. The ruler is also marked for accurate drawing of certain angles. Six inches long, the pocket-size unit has an index window on the roller portion permitting lines to be spaced at desired intervals.

• Science News Letter, 89:79 January 29, 1966



⚙️ **NEW PAINT ROLLER**, shown in photograph, has a handle that holds the paint. Made of Bakelite polyethylene, the container-handle is squeezed as the roller is used, feeding paint to the roller through its perforated core. The new applicator is especially useful for coating ceilings since drip is eliminated. A pouring spout and protective cover for roller are included.

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⚙️ **PORTABLE CLOTHES DRYER** for quick drying of small items such as stockings, gloves and underwear is electrically operated with thermostatic control and automatic timer. Useful in home, dormitory or for traveling it eliminates drip and clutter in the bathroom. The unit comes in a vinyl carrying case and is available in white, blue or pink.

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⚙️ **BARREL CRADLERS** for storing, handling and draining barrels and drums are channel type in construction with welded side sections. Made of pressed steel they are 19 inches high and weigh only 28 pounds. A special handle allows loading and unloading by one person. The cradlers come with or without four three-inch wheels.

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⚙️ **HINGELESS TRANSPARENT DOORS** that can be driven through are made from tough vinyl plastic. Designed for use in warehouses and industrial plants, they are inexpensive to install, have low maintenance and they speed materials handling. The tightly closing doors pivot silently on a rubber torque bar for shock-resistant and friction-free action. Doors range in thickness from $\frac{3}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

• Science News Letter, 89:79 January 29, 1966

• Doctors Are Reading •

Cause of Diabetic Complication Seen

➤ **EXPERIMENTAL DIABETIC RATS** found to have an excess of glucose and other substances in their spinal cords could clear up the puzzling cause of nerve complications in approximately four percent of diabetic patients.

A discovery that glucose is converted into fructose by way of sorbitol, a sugar alcohol, was reported by a team of Harvard Medical School researchers in *Science* 151:209, 1966.

Cell membranes appear to be relatively impermeable to sorbitol and fructose. The investigators believe the accumulation of these substances may be due to excessive glucose production and inefficient utilization.

The accumulation of sorbitol and fructose in diabetic nerves and cords could prevent normal osmosis due to the inability of these sugars to escape from their intracellular prison.

Drs. Kenneth H. Gabbay, Lorenzo O. Merola and Richard A. Field of the Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, reported the findings.

Cutting Open Golf Balls Dangerous

Old golf balls can explode when curious children cut them open, a Medical Corps physician, Maj. Robert Penner of Walter Reed Army General Hospital reported.

When Dr. Penner was serving at U.S. Army Tripler General Hospital, Honolulu, Hawaii, he performed surgery on the eye of

an 11-year-old boy who had cut into the liquid center of a discarded golf ball whose contents exploded into his face. A 10-year-old girl also was brought into Tripler after she cut into a golf ball that exploded. She recovered without surgery.

"It is not so much the contents of the ball, but the high compression under which the cores are placed," he said.

Sulfuric acid, barium salts, zinc chloride and caustic soda have been used by golf ball manufacturers in the past for liquid center golf balls, Dr. Penner says in the *Archives of Ophthalmology*, 75:68, 1966.

Manufacturers have recently substituted materials that are less caustic than in the past, but the centers are still contained under high pressures, from 2,000 to 2,500 pounds per square inch.

Sterilization Approved

Sterilization is a better technique than contraception for "poorly motivated" people, a Baltimore physician reports in the *Journal of Abdominal Surgery*.

"The use of sterilization has been impeded by separating it from contraception," writes Dr. H. Melvin Radman. "One is permanent, the other is temporary. The moral, ethical, legal and medical issues of female sexual sterilization have recently been scrutinized. The advisability of a permanent termination of the childbearing function for specific couples has been recognized since the time of Hippocrates."

• Science News Letter, 89:79 January 29, 1966