

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1358 for source information. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **SHOE MUD REMOVER** for use with golf shoes consists of a rugged heavy bristle nylon brush that attaches to a golf cart with a bracket of plated steel. Convenient on muddy days, the golfer can quickly and easily clean his shoes before each stroke. No stooping or bending is required.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966

⊗ **FROZEN EPOXY FOAM** for embedment of electronic circuitry is pre-mixed and degassed. Available in 6 cc plastic syringe, 10.5 gm squeeze tube and 90 gm and 220 gm cartridge sizes, the adhesive is shipped in dry ice to maintain its frozen state until ready for use. The material foams and cures at 150 degrees F. permitting use with heat-sensitive components and because of its gentle foaming cycle it will not damage or displace fragile parts.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966

⊗ **HYDRO-CATYLATORS** are especially designed caps for storage batteries containing a catalytic agent that combines into water vapor the hydrogen and oxygen gases given off in charging. The water vapor condenses and returns to the cell from which it came, reducing loss of battery electrolyte, prolonging battery life and minimizing corrosion.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966



⊗ **VENTILATION KIT**, shown in photograph, makes the job easy for the boat owner who must comply with new ventilation requirements in fuel and engine compartments. The kit which comes in two sizes—for compartments up to 12 cubic feet and for those up to 17.2 cubic feet—contains all the necessary parts including a flexible ventilation hose and instructions. The installation can be done entirely from outside the compartment.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966

⊗ **NEW FINISH** restores and renews worn and faded flexible materials such as leather, vinyl, leatherette and canvas. The finish, which can be applied by brush, spray or roller, also protects against rot, moisture and mildew. Suitable for restoring faded and bleached patio and lawn furniture as well as scuffed luggage, the finish is available in various colors.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966

⊗ **DISTILLATION APPARATUS** is a new micromolecular still particularly useful for the purification of small scale reactions. Designed with a short travel path for the condensate, the loss of the product is reduced to a minimum and analytical samples can be prepared from 30 to 50 mg. of substance with good results. An outer cup for oil bath heating is provided.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966

⊗ **CAMPER'S KITCHEN** includes a brass alcohol burning camping stove, two saucepans, a frypan, two-pint water kettle and grip handle. Easy to carry for hiking, bicycle touring, picnicking or stowing in a trailer, the complete set nests in a 4x9½-inch unit weighing about three pounds. A strong fabric strap holds the unit in its nested position. The burner operates 20 minutes on one filling.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Hardening Formula Causes Loss of Nails

➤ A **NEW NAIL HARDENING** formula used by a 24-year-old nurse had an opposite effect from that expected. She lost some of her nails.

Allergy to the compound, whose exact nature was kept secret because of a pending patent, was the cause of the nail loss, Dr. Cyril H. March of New York University School of Medicine reported in *Archives of Dermatology* 93:720, 1966.

This case points to the necessity for requiring cosmetics manufacturers to label their products with the name of active ingredients so patients can be instructed about avoiding specific allergens and related compounds, Dr. March said.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966

## Cause of Death Misdiagnosed

➤ **AUTOPSIES**, which some physicians believe are out of style, proved their value in a survey comparing the stated cause of 265 deaths with the postmortem diagnosis.

Here are a few of the surprises found in the survey at Paddington General Hospital, London, by Dr. Robert R. Wilson:

A patient with peritonitis (infection of the abdominal lining) had been diagnosed before autopsy as dying of tuberculosis. He had actually died from perforation of a gastric ulcer.

One cause of death had been diagnosed as cerebral tumor but was found at autopsy to be a case of intestinal obstruction due to a hernia in the presence of gross lack of blood supply to the brain. Another case was diagnosed as having uterine fibroid tumors but was a cancer in a dropped transverse colon that adhered to the uterus.

Dr. Wilson, now of Stobhill General Hospital, Glasgow, Scotland, who reported the survey in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 196:1011, 1966, said he intended no "disrespect to clinical colleagues" in the survey.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966

## Study Upsets Growth Hormone Theories

➤ **GROWTH HORMONE** therapy may eventually prove to be as effective as replacement of other hormones, Dr. David L. Rimoin of Johns Hopkins University's division of medical genetics believes.

His study of sexually mature dwarfs showed that apparently a deficiency of growth hormone need not be accompanied by absence of other pituitary hormones, a report in *Medical World News*, 7:84, 1966, said. The deficiency does not influence birth weight, and it is not essential for lactation.

The sexually mature dwarfs secreted normal amounts of thyroid-stimulating hormone, ACTH and follicle-stimulating hormone.

• Science News, 89:526 June 25, 1966