

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☼ **CONTEMPORARY FIREPLACE** is a free-standing, wood-burning unit, triangular in design with a 24x36-inch rectangular base that slopes to an 8-inch round flue opening 48 inches above floor level. Suitable for home, ski lodge or summer cottage, the fireplace which rests on three self-leveling legs, is made of heavy gauge steel. It has a thick metal fire shield at the rear for extra protection.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966

☼ **BACK SEAT TABLE**, handy and convenient for long-distance traveling by car, serves as a table for play for children or for meals. Fitting any model automobile, the table, made of sturdy red metal, fits over the back of the front seat. The table, 12x30 inches in size, folds flat when not in use.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966

☼ **RIDGE GRILL** provides a simple way to grill meat on top of the stove and allows meat to cook without resting in the grease. Suitable for cooking bacon, chops, steaks and other meats, the grill has parallel ridges along its length which keep the meat above the bottom of the pan. Made of aluminum, the 10x10-inch pan has a heat proof handle.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966



☼ **ANCHORING DEVICE**, shown in photograph, is a 4½-inch diameter reel that can be mounted at any convenient spot on the boat. Designed for small boats, the device allows one-hand control of the anchor from a sitting position eliminating the need to move about or stand to raise or lower the anchor. The bow mount which comes with the reel holds the anchor away from the boat preventing it from bumping the hull.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966

☼ **POCKET WATCH** for men is rectangular in shape and designed to slip easily into a watch pocket, or stand on desk or table. Available either with vertical or horizontal reading, the watch has a brushed chrome cover that slides open to reveal the time. The horizontal model has a luminous dial, the vertical model a plain dial.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966

☼ **DRY LUBRICANT** made from Teflon is clean and greaseless, and designed for lubricating sliding hatches, doors, windows, chocks, lines and other sliding surfaces. Recommended for marine applications, the material can be sprayed on any surface and the residue easily brushed off the non-working part. The lubricant is packaged in a six-ounce aerosol container.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966

☼ **PEN-TYPE OILER**, especially suitable for use in hard-to-reach places, has a retractable tube which releases a drop or less as needed. Only slightly larger than a fountain pen, its overall length reaches 9½ inches when its tube is extended. The oiler, which comes filled with instrument oil is refillable and can be clipped in a coat pocket for immediate use.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Tropical Fruit Leaves for Low-Tar Cigarettes

➤ **CANCER-CONSCIOUS?** Try smoking fruit leaves. Papaya leaves flavored with honey, cocoa and "tobacco extract" have been made into cigarettes containing only 37.8% of the tar in the standard, tobacco-filled variety.

The leaves were cured, shredded, dunked in "extracting solvent," rinsed, dunked again, heated and allowed to dry. After being flavored with half a dozen different substances, 50 pounds of leaves were rolled into king-size cigarettes and smoked on a standard Ecusta smoking machine. The machine took two-second puffs, spaced at one minute intervals.

The result, reported by R. I. Shamberger of Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, N.Y., in *Nature*, 211:86, 1966, was that tar was reduced to 14.6 grams per cigarette, compared to 38.6 grams in a tobacco cigarette.

The smoking machine declined to comment on the taste.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966

## Oral Contraceptives Linked With Thrombosis

➤ **ORAL CONTRACEPTIVES** and blood clotting have again been linked by an English haematologist.

The link is a frail but worrisome one, reported Dr. L. Poller and Jean M. Thompson, research technician at Withington Hospital in Manchester.

In their study they found that after two years, women showed about the same amount of factor VII in their blood as women in their last three months of pregnancy.

Factor VII has not been conclusively established as an element in clotting but it is usually found in increased amounts in patients with recent thrombosis.

Dr. Poller discovered that the pills apparently have a

cumulative effect on factor VII. Women who had been taking the pills for eight or nine months did not show as much factor VII increase as the pregnant women. But after two years on the pills, their levels were comparable.

"It is important to determine whether factor VII goes on increasing with more prolonged courses of oral contraception," said Dr. Poller. This is the "worrying feature," he said in the *British Medical Journal*, July 2, 1966.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966

## Human Ovum Studied by Electron Microscopy

➤ **THE FIRST** known study of a sperm penetrated human ovum in the early pronuclear stage by electron microscopy has been reported in *Nature*, 210:1373, 1966.

Until the present time, two "unequivocally penetrated" human ova have been recovered and studied anatomically, but they were observed by light and phase microscopy.

The present study was done immediately following a hysterectomy in which the uterine, or fallopian, tubes also were removed as well as the womb. The egg was flushed from one of the tubes and prepared for observation.

The patient was a 33-year-old woman who had had sexual relations approximately 26 hours before the operation. Two spermatozoa were seen within the zone surrounding the egg, and the tail of the penetrated sperm was located very close to one of two pronuclei.

Drs. Luciano Zamboni, James Bell, Manuel Baca and Daniel R. Mishell Jr. of Harbor General Hospital Torrance, Calif., and the University of California at Los Angeles reported the study. Their work was supported by grants from the Ford Foundation and from the U. S. Public Health Service Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases, Bethesda.

• Science News, 90:46 July 16, 1966