

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1366 for source information. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

⚙️ **ENGINE DEGREASER** is a solvent that quickly penetrates, loosens and dissolves dirt, grime and grease on marine engines. The cleaner, sprayed from an aerosol can, will not damage electrical insulators and is noncorrosive. After application, the degreaser can be flushed off with water from a garden hose under high pressure. It is also useful for cleaning exhaust fans, stove burners and mower engines.

⚙️ **EQUIPMENT RACK** for hanging and drying football, basketball, track and baseball and other athletic equipment, is made of tempered steel painted with black rust-resistant paint. Useful in high school and college locker rooms, the individual racks are mounted on the wall with bolts at the top and bottom. Placed two feet from the floor and 16 inches apart, the units keep athletic equipment orderly.

⚙️ **MAGNETIC REACHER** 27 inches long makes possible picking up metal as well as other articles from the floor without stooping or bending. The device, which handles like a pair of scissors, is useful to the housewife in the kitchen for reaching objects high on the shelves or for the bedridden for retrieving dropped books or papers.



⚙️ **REUSABLE FLASH CUBE**, shown in photograph, that can also be used "piggyback" to provide eight shots in rapid succession fits all cameras equipped to operate with flash cubes. Each cube, molded of heavy-duty plastic, holds four flash bulbs and with the same bulbs, provides 50% more light output than the standard flash cubes. The bulbs slip easily into the slots and are readily ejected.

⚙️ **CIRCULAR THERMOMETER**, one and one-quarter inches in diameter, gives rapid response reading to temperatures in changing environments. Designed for both fixed position and portable applications, it will respond within five seconds to temperature changes from minus 10 to plus 150 degrees F. For quality control purposes, the thermometers can be mounted in checkerboard fashion on walls or other areas to determine temperature distribution and flow patterns.

⚙️ **CHROMAGRAM KIT** for thin-layer chromatography contains all items needed for the process. Designed for educators, students, technicians and researchers, the portable unit is suitable for laboratory or field work. Suitable also for classroom demonstration, the kit includes an instruction manual.

⚙️ **BRUSH COAT HANGER** is a hinged coat hanger made with nylon bristles on each end and folds to form a clothes brush. Made of tough plastic, the brush and hanger unit has a non-rusting hook that swivels in any direction. Especially useful to travelers, the compact coat hanger is lightweight and can be easily carried in suitcase or coat pocket.

• Doctors Are Reading •

Photographic Developer Causes Damage to Eyes

➤ **EYE DAMAGE** has been reported in workers producing a widely used photographic developer called hydroquinone.

The American Medical Association warned of the serious visual impairment that can occur after five or more years of exposure to dusts and vapors of hydroquinone compounds.

A brownish pigmentation leads to pronounced irregular astigmatism. A puzzling feature is that severe corneal damage can occur after an interval of many years in which there are no symptoms.

Dr. Gottfried Naumann reports on corneal damage in hydroquinone workers in the Archives of Ophthalmology, 76: 189, 1966. Fortunately, irreversibly damaged corneal tissue can be replaced surgically.

'Bed-Wetting Buzzer' Can Cause Skin Ulcer

➤ **SMALL** blankets attached to electric buzzers designed to waken bed-wetting children can sometimes cause skin ulcers.

Some children sleep through the alarm, and in one case the alarm was faulty and did not go off when the child started to wet the bed, two London physicians reported in the British Medical Journal, July 16, 1966.

Direct current electrolysis is believed to cause skin ulceration due to moist skin. At least three known cases have led the doctors to wonder to what extent similar cases have occurred. They say an improved electrical design is needed.

Dr. Peter Borrie and J. C. B. Fenton of St. Bartholomew's Hospital emphasized that they do not mean to single out any one manufacturer's appliance as unsafe, in view of the fact that a similar principle is employed in many enuresis blankets. The blanket is made of a plastic material onto which are sewn thin strips of aluminum foil that serve as detecting electrodes. The alarm-buzzer contains a battery with a relay and alarm mechanism. When urine starts to make contact with the blanket electrodes a flow of electric current causes the relay to close and the alarm to sound.

Babies' Low Blood Sugar Causes New Syndrome

➤ **A NEW SET** of symptoms has been discovered in newborn babies who have low blood sugar, a team of Yale pediatricians reported.

One baby had an enlarged tongue that could not be kept inside her mouth. Slightly small heads and other enlarged organs were among the symptoms, and one baby had an open navel that had to be corrected surgically.

Treatment with cortisone, zinc glucagon and diazoxide was helpful in raising the blood sugar level of babies at the Clinical Research Center of the Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Low blood sugar, called hypoglycemia, occurs approximately once in 500 live births. Premature babies and the smaller infant of twin births have been found with significant hypoglycemia. The cause could be related to prenatal malnutrition.

Drs. Jerome T. Combs, Jerome A. Grunt and Ira K. Brandt reported three cases of the new syndrome in the New England Journal of Medicine, 275: 236, 1966.