

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1368 for source information. Send self-addressed, stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

⚙️ **MODEL BOAT KIT** contains the makings of a 17-inch outboard run-about of fiberglass. The boat is suited for the miniature electric outboard motors available in hobby stores. Complete with a vacuum-formed hull and deck mold, seats, windshield and bow, the boat is designed so that the hobbyist can add whatever hardware he wishes. Two other models are available.

⚙️ **LEATHER RESTORER** helps in the care of fine leather products by providing the natural waterproofing and softening agents removed in the tanning process. The substance which comes in a six-ounce aerosol can prevents cracking and drying of leather goods and also makes the leather rot- and mildew-resistant. The product is suitable for use on any leather goods such as on shoes, bags and saddles.

⚙️ **FINGERTIP FLUID DISPENSER** for reagents, pharmaceuticals, industrial solvents and other fluids allows one-handed operation, dispensing the fluid with a touch of a finger. Designed for use with gravity-feed and siphon-feed bottles and containers, the semi-automatic unit delivers drop quantities or continuous flow, eliminating losses, contamination and inconvenience of bottle pouring.



⚙️ **FOOT MOP**, shown in photograph, useful in kitchen and bathroom picks up damp spots quickly and easily without the need for stooping. The mop which is circular in shape has a pocket on top in which the foot is inserted. When a water spot is discovered on the floor, the foot is simply inserted into the mop and brushed over the spot. Made of white terry cloth fringed in black, the footmops are made to fit every foot size.

⚙️ **MAGNETIC LANTERN** is a new rechargeable auto safety light that has a strong magnet on the back which securely grips metal surfaces. Provided with a continuous red blinking light for emergencies on the road, it also has a safety panel for light reflections. The lantern has a convenient top handle strap and folding prongs for recharging the nickel cadmium battery from any AC outlet.

⚙️ **DISPOSAL BAG** mounts on the inside of a kitchen cabinet door off the floor and out of sight. The bags are made of a special paper that keeps insects away and holds in odors. Each bag will hold up to 20 pounds of wet heavy garbage. The unit comes complete with 10 bags and holder. Extra bags are available separately.

⚙️ **'HOT' GLASS WARNING** for identifying glassware that has been or is to be used for radioactive materials may be marked on glassware. The permanent warning symbol, the internationally used magenta-and-yellow trefoil, is fired into the glass. The symbol which will not trap radioactivity is an integral part of the glass and is completely cleaned by any detergent that removes radioactive contamination from the glass.

• Doctors Are Reading •

Avoid Hard Exercise After Aortic Graft

➤ **STRENUOUS** physical activities should be avoided for the rest of a patient's life if he has had a graft replacement for an abdominal aortic aneurysm, a Chicago physician advised in the questions and answers section of the Journal of the American Medical Association 197:670, 1966. Normal activities can be resumed if the post-operative course is uneventful, however.

Dr. Hassan Najafi of Chicago was specifically answering a question about taking the so-called Air Force exercises, which he does not consider "normal."

Lowering Cancer Acidity Heightens Drug Effects

➤ **SOME POSITIVE DRUG** effects on cancer cells are increased and the toxic effects are lessened when the acidity, or hydrogen ion concentration, of a tumor is lowered.

Studies reported in *The Lancet*, 2:312, 1966, indicate that better drug selectivity will be possible through acidity decrease.

Cancer cells were found to be lower in acidity than normal cells when they were studied by inserting tiny glass electrodes into the tumor nodules with the second electrode placed either under the skin or within the muscles. A further reduction of acidity was achieved by dextrose infusions.

Dr. B. Sterry Ashby of Westminster Hospital, London, selected eight patients with the dark pigmented spreading cells of melanoma for testing because the nodules were

easily accessible to the technique he was using. A ninth patient with breast cancer was also tested.

Glass electrodes are especially suitable for these measurements in living tissue, Dr. Ashby explained. Unlike metal electrodes they are not easily poisoned by prolonged contact with proteins or fat, and are not "affected by oxygen tension or oxidation-reduction potentials."

Dr. Ashby said the use of cancer-poisoning drugs has led to renewed interest in the internal environment of tumors, their blood supply, oxygen saturation and acidity.

Hum in Neck Vein Need not Mean Aneurysm

➤ **NOW THAT** doctors are often applying the stethoscope to the neck to detect possible narrowing of one of the two carotid arteries carrying blood to the head, they sometimes hear an odd murmur that is often misdiagnosed.

Dr. Arthur U. Rivin of the Student Health Service and the School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, reported a survey of 200 persons, aged 18 to 76, many of whom had a venous hum.

The occurrence was noted in 47% of the young adults and in 21% of persons in the middle and older age group. In some cases the hum rose to a musical "whee," he said, and in others it became a loud to-and-fro-roar.

The normal cervical murmur can be distinguished from the type linked with disease by the fact that it can be silenced by light pressure over the jugular vein, Dr. Rivin said. Misdiagnosis has included aneurysm, aortic insufficiency and other diseased states.