

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1376 for source information. Send self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

⚙️ **BULK TAPE ERASER** that erases tape up to one-inch wide in one operation is suitable for video as well as audio reels up to 17 inches in diameter. It does not require rewinding. The heavy duty unit is also applicable to computer, telemetry and special-purpose magnetic tapes. An overheat indicator and a blower system are incorporated in the device for safety.

⚙️ **INDOOR/OUTDOOR THERMOMETER** gives maximum and minimum temperatures. Easy to read, the face registers the present temperature while movable tabs tell the highest and lowest temperatures reached since the last setting. Housed in a tough case molded of weather-resistant plastic, the thermometer also has a protective hood attachment which snaps into place for outdoor use.

⚙️ **BEARING INDICATOR** is useful for piloting and position locating on small boats and yachts. The floatable unit enables the yachtsman or fisherman to stand anywhere in the boat for locating fishing spots, fixing positions and other compass applications. The unit is held at eye level for sighting and is read directly above the sights. It is also useful for setting starting buoys and course markers in boat racing.



⚙️ **TOOL KIT**, shown above, contains 21 parts suitable for almost any repair job in home, office, car or boat. The kit, which will fit in the glove compartment of a car, contains a soldering iron, adjustable wrench, sure-grip hammer and pliers as well as a complete screwdriver ensemble with interchangeable heads and a set of open end and box wrenches. Enclosed in a luggage type snap-open case, it is suitable for gift giving.

⚙️ **HAND WARMER** keeps sportsmen and outdoor workers warm on winter days. The slim-lined, palm size heater made of aluminum produces a dial controlled heat ranging from low to hot. Weighing only 2½ ounces, the flameless heater fits into glove or boot, or it can be used inside a coat or jacket. It is available in black, gold or silver finish and comes in a carrying bag.

⚙️ **CONTINUOUS - COUNTERCURRENT DIALYZER**, a system for separating substances in solution, can dialyze large volumes up to 10 times faster than conventional methods and can be monitored continuously without interrupting the operation. Suitable for a wide variety of laboratory uses, the unit is reusable many times. The device, 16 inches in diameter and 14 inches high, is an all-plastic assembly consisting essentially of an inner dialysis tube and an outer vinyl tube.

⚙️ **WATCH BAND CALENDAR**, suitable for use with men's wrist watches, consists of small oval-shaped metal bands of individual months. Easy to attach, the current month's calendar is bent at the edges to fit securely over the wrist band. Champagne colored to blend with both silver and gold bands, the sets of 12 months can be started with any month of the year.

• Doctors Are Reading •

Cadmium-Hypertension Correlation Reported

➤ **CORRELATION** between a specific air pollutant, cadmium and death rates from hypertension and arteriosclerotic heart disease in 28 U.S. cities was reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 198:267,1966.

This does not necessarily indicate a cause and effect relationship, the report said, but the phenomenon cannot be explained by a general association between heart disease and air pollution. Zinc, closely related to cadmium, is the only other air pollutant which correlates significantly with heart disease rates.

Other evidence has accumulated to incriminate cadmium, including its presence in the kidneys of hypertensives and its ability to experimentally produce heart disease in rats.

Further research will have to define cadmium's possible correlation with other types of cardiovascular disease, Dr. Robert E. Carroll of the U.S. Public Health Service's Division of Air Pollution, Cincinnati, Ohio said.

Furniture Polish Poison

➤ **ORDINARY** household furniture polish causes serious lung damage when swallowed by children, two radiologists from the South reported in *The American Journal of Roentgenology, Radium Therapy and Nuclear Medicine*. Dr. John P. Jiminez of Richmond, Va., and Dr. Richard G.

Lester of Durham, N.C., said that all but two patients among 21 furniture polish poisoning victims recovered, however, after being treated with antibiotics and oxygen mist.

Fatal Ear Tumors Described

➤ **MALIGNANT** ear tumors in children are usually of a type that resembles a cluster of grapes and arises from skeletal muscle cells around the temporal bone of the skull. They are rare, occurring most often in the middle ears of preschool children, and they probably begin to form before birth.

Survival time after the diagnosis is made averages eight months, although it sometimes extends to twice that length. The child may have been taken to a doctor because of ear pain, partial paralysis of the face or a bloody discharge from the ear.

Spread of the tumor is usually to the lungs, although one case of its spreading to the thigh bone is recorded. It may also extend around the middle ear area, involving the vagus nerve.

The tumor has been fatal in all reported cases so far. However, combination of early diagnosis, surgical removal of the temporal bone (to which the ear structures are attached), and radiation therapy may destroy the tumor before it spreads, report Ohio doctors, Arnold Schuring and Herbert G. Birk in the *Archives of Otolaryngology* 84:416, 1966.