

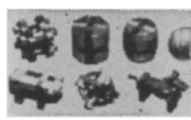
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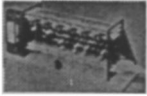
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# current patents

## PEDAGOGY

### Self-correcting exercise books

Psychologist Dr. B. F. Skinner, leading theoretician of programmed learning, received three patents for a way of teaching writing to school children.

The system uses treated paper and special ink to let the student know right away if he is forming a letter correctly. When he makes the correct line it appears gray, but if he is wrong his marks show up in yellow.

The immediate reinforcement of correct responses is basic to behaviorist learning theory. In this situation, the child's behavior in response to a given stimulus has certain consequences, or reinforcers. If the consequences are immediate and consistent, the student learns quickly to respond correctly to the stimulus of a question or exercise.

The self-grading exercise books are now being published for grades one through six by Lyons and Carnahan, Inc., Chicago.

The three patents were assigned to Meredith Corp., parent company of Lyons and Carnahan. On one patent, Dr. Skinner's co-inventor was Alvin S. Ostashever; on another, Joseph R. Ehrlich shared the patent.

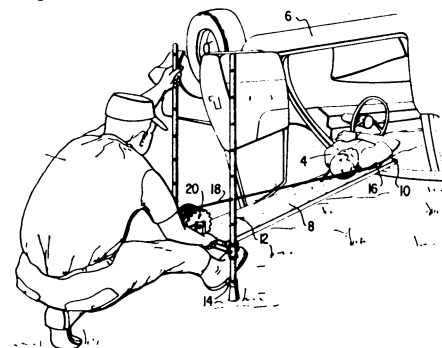
Patents 3,363,336; 3,363,337; 3,363,338.

## TRAUMATOLOGY

### Portable rescue winch

Removing victims from a crushed car or other accident scene can be difficult, especially if only one or two rescuers are available. Tugging, twisting, or bending the patient can aggravate the original injuries.

A portable rescue board with a winch-drawn harness, patented last week by an Air Force surgeon, makes it possible for one man to draw an ac-



cident victim free of the scene so that the body weight is evenly distributed and no bending takes place.

The winch board—formally, evacua-

tion casualty board—is being produced for civilian use by the Stephenson Respirator Corp. of Red Bank, N.J. Production for the Armed Services is also planned.

The harness on the rescue device fits around the victim's chest and under his arms. The patient is then drawn onto the smooth, waxed board, one end of which is attached to a folding frame which holds the winch. The attached end of the board can be moved up and down on the frame to accommodate different situations.

The board's inventor, Col. Louis C. Kossuth, is Command Surgeon of the El Paso County Air Force Base, Colo.

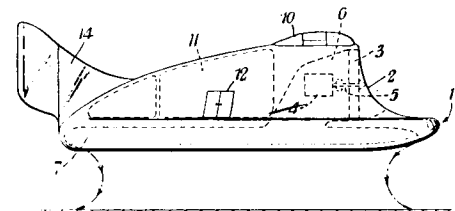
Patent 3,363,269.

## AMPHIBIANS

### Hovercraft basic patent

After 11 years of stiff competition, British hovercraft inventor Christopher S. Cockerell received a patent last week for the basic design of the amphibious vehicle that supports itself slightly above the surface by a cushion of air.

Hovercraft are becoming practical for use in ferrying situations because of their high speed and easy docking. About 30 vehicles of 18 and 38-passen-



ger capacity are now in use around the world. Last October a 165-ton hovercraft designed to carry 30 cars and 250 passengers across the English Channel in 35 minutes made its debut.

Successful development of the vehicle required some refinement of Cockerell's original patented idea, in which the air cushion is formed and kept in place by a peripheral jet of air acting as an enclosing curtain. Early trials on the first vehicle built on that principle showed that only a small clearance could be maintained. By adding a long flexible skirt to the ship, hovercraft developers were able to increase the clearance to the point where the vehicle was practical.

The patent was assigned to Hovercraft Development Ltd. of England.

Patent 3,363,716.