

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **DISPOSABLE PIPETTES** made of borosilicate glass are discarded after use, thus providing freedom from contamination. Especially useful for critical procedures and when handling infectious materials, the highly transparent serological pipettes are cotton-plugged and packaged in sterile polyethylene bags. They come in one-millimeter size with 1/100 ml. graduations in easily readable dark blue, and are heat resistant and chemically inert.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966

⚙️ **LONG-LASTING FERTILIZER** packets provide controlled feeding of plants for five years. The fertilizer packet is placed in soil near new plants, established trees, shrubs or bushes. Tiny pores in the packet release nutrients in the spring and summer. Safe to use, this method of feeding plants eliminates the need to refertilize each year.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966

⚙️ **FOUR-WAY CLIPS** are designed for attaching tubing or wiring firmly to any structural surface. One or two lengths of tubing can be held firmly with the two-part clip which will accommodate 1/4- or 3/8-inch tubing in the top portion and 1/2- or 5/8-inch tubing in the lower portion. No holes need to be drilled to apply the unit which is mounted with adhesive.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966



⚙️ **MATH TEACHING AID**, shown in photograph, consisting of colored pegs and ladder numbered to 20, enables children from kindergarten through the elementary grades to learn, with teacher-guidance, the basic principles of mathematics and properties of numbers through sight and touch. The device which can be used concurrently with any math textbook progresses from the simple to the more mature thought processes.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966

⚙️ **PORTABLE REFRIGERATOR** operates on regular 110-volt house current, 12-volt boat or automobile battery and propane gas. The lightweight unit has an outside casing of aluminum finished in gold color and an ammonia-hydrogen cooling system. Hermetically sealed with no moving parts, the refrigerator is absolutely silent. It will hold up to 35 pounds or 35 cans of food or liquid.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966

⚙️ **FIRE BLANKET** is a useful safety item for the home for putting out small fires in kitchens, garages, basements and other areas. Made of non-woven asbestos fabric that is noncombustible, the blanket, 3 x 4 feet in size, will not burn, smoke or char. When dropped over small accidental fires it will help to smother the flames.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966

⚙️ **CHEM-FORMULATOR** is designed for students of elementary inorganic chemistry as well as for teachers. On one side of the cardboard device, 8 x 8 inches in size, is a wheel that gives the properties of any of 96 elements by simply turning the pointer to the desired element. On the reverse side is another wheel that provides a quick means for obtaining the correct formula for common inorganic compounds. Instructions are included.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Stuttering Feigned by Therapist

➤ A VOICE therapist at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., helps stuttering children speak more fluently by deliberately producing stuttering sounds, which he himself makes.

The children themselves are encouraged to reproduce a particular type of stuttering so they can be helped to control and modify it.

Dr. Hugh H. Gregory produces a common bond with the children, aged six to 10, who are difficult to teach by other methods. Together the teacher and students analyze his feigned speech problem, and the students learn to make their speech mechanism do what they want it to do.

Dr. Gregory has used the method with about 50 children since 1960, most of whom have shown considerable improvement in their speech. His work was reported in *Modern Medicine*, 34:53, 1966.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966

## TB, Alcoholism in Same Persons

➤ A GOOD REASON for not committing alcoholics to jail is that large numbers of them have tuberculosis and could infect other prisoners. Alcoholism itself is an illness that should not be punished by jailing, authorities say.

More than 80% of alcoholic inmates of the Don Jail, Toronto, Canada, were found to have positive tuberculin tests as compared with 33.3% of other offenders tested, two

Toronto investigators reported in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal* 94:999, 1966.

Of 227 chronic drunkenness offenders in one study, 20 gave a history of active TB. Reports from other centers show that tuberculosis and alcoholism frequently co-exist, particularly among the homeless men of skid row. The low standard of living associated with poor nutrition probably lowers resistance to infection.

Drs. Jack S. Olin and Stefan Grzybowski, who reported the study, suggested a special treatment center and an outpatient clinic where both diseases can be treated.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966

## OK Expected for Gout Remedy

➤ A VALUABLE new drug for treating gout called allopurinol is expected to be cleared by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration soon. The investigational drug, which was tried on 55 patients at Duke University Hospital for periods up to 34 months, is reported in the *Arthritis Foundation's Bulletin on Rheumatic Diseases*, 16:400, 1966.

Dr. R. Wayne Rundles of the Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C., with Dr. George H. Hitchings and Gertrude Elion, the Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. chemists who synthesized the drug, say allopurinol is beneficial to those who have not responded to other treatment. Allopurinol appears to affect the underlying enzymatic mechanism of gout.

• *Science News*, 89:430 May 28, 1966