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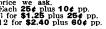


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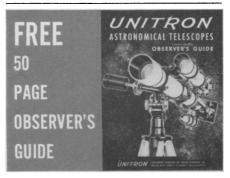
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INVENTIONS

Patents of the Week

A blood pressure recorder used in studies on pressure suits for space flights has been patented. A hypodermic needle and a submarine device were other inventions.

MAN'S FIRST journey into space received a big boost by a medical instrument just patented.

Three former U.S. Air Force doctors patented a blood pressure recorder that was used in the first studies on pressure suits for space flights. The doctors are George D. Zuidema, University Hospital surgeon, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Robert E. Edelberg, Baylor University College of Medicine professor, Houston, Texas; and Edwin W. Salzman, surgeon, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Mass.

"The recorder (patent No. 2,989,051) was used in human tolerance studies for pro-longed rocket acceleration," Dr. Zuidema told Science Service. "It was developed to meet the need of measuring and maintaining records of the blood circulation of humans confined to pressure suits up to hours at a time."

The men in pressure suits, forerunners of the budding generation of astronauts, were subjected to various atmospheric and temperature changes in human centrifuges and high altitude pressure chambers at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton,

Herbert Spenc

Philosophy of COMPOSITION by Edger Allen Poe

Ohio. Their blood pressure and pulse rates were continually taken by the instrument and recorded on tape for a permanent record.

"The device was the prototype of the sophisticated recording devices that were probably used to record the reactions of astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr. on his hop into space," Dr. Zuidema said.

A disposable hypodermic needle that makes a clean puncture as it enters the skin won patent No. 2,989,053 for Donald A. Hamilton, Burbank, Calif. Rights were assigned to Don Baxter, Inc., Glendale, Calif. A pointed needle with sharp triangular cutting edges does away with the chances of tissue damage and other irritations normally occurring when ordinary hypodermic needles with beveled points are used, the patent stated.

An SOS signal in the form of a ball popping up to the surface from a submarine in trouble was patented by Sebastian J. Tralongo, Rockville, Md., who assigned rights of patent No. 2,989,024 to Vitro Corporation of America, New York. A pressurized container filled with gas bursts open as it reaches the surface, releasing a dye or smoke bombs.

Dr. Vladimir K. Zworykin, radio-television pioneer, and two other scientists have refined the picture on colored television by controlling the light output of phosphors, which are substances that light up when excited by radiation. Dr. Zworykin and Jan A. Rajchman, Princeton, N.J., and Edward G. Ramberg, Huntingdon Valley, Pa., received patent No. 2,989,582 for the invention and assigned the rights to Radio Corporation of America (RCA). A colorimage producer is controlled by "signal strips" that distribute the time a radiating or electron beam rests on colored phosphors. • Science News Letter, 80:30 July 8, 1961

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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINES, 1888-1960, any issue. Periodical Service, Box 465-SN., Wilmington, Delaware.

DENTISTRY—Which bacteria normally found in the mouth caused tooth decay? p. 26.

MEDICINE—What are some advantages of a new anesthetic G-29? p. 20.

OCEANOGRAPHY—How many feet has the ocean level dropped due to a rift in the ocean bottom? p. 23.

Photographs: Cover, Radiation Dynamics, Inc.; p. 19, Mrs. Frederick E. Lederer; p. 21, United States Steel Corporation: p. 23. Fremont Davis; p. 26, National Institute of Dental Research; p. 32, David O. Alber Associates,