

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **MOISTURE BALANCE** provides a quick and direct means for determining moisture content of materials without the use of vacuum oven and analytical balances. Useful for grain, dairy products and beverage industries, the instrument combines a heat source and built-in balance so that weighing and drying of sample occur simultaneously. Portable, it will operate on regular electrical outlets.

• Science News Letter, 82:376 December 8, 1962

⚙️ **UMBRELLA TENT** for Boy Scouts or the occasional overnight camper will sleep one or two on air mattresses or sleeping bags. Its finished size is seven by seven feet, the center height, five feet nine inches, and wall height four feet. Made of oil-treated green cloth with netting window and door flap, the tent comes with corner pole assembly and two awning poles.

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⚙️ **SILICONE SPRAY** makes any fabric from filmy synthetics to heavy canvas water repellent and stain and wrinkle resistant. The silicone liquid bonds into the fibers without affecting color or retarding air circulation. The product is suitable for drapes, clothing, tablecloths, awnings, or fabrics exposed to sea air. One application of the spray, which air cures in four to six hours, will last for months.

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⚙️ **MODULAR BUILDING BRICKS** that will stimulate the child's imagination can be used to construct animals, people and various types of buildings. Molded from colorful plastic, as shown in the photograph, the interlocking bricks are tough and lightweight and can be easily pressed together or taken apart. Plastic bases are provided with each set. A full line of accessory parts, such as trees, flags, banners and

automotive vehicles, are available for building toy cities.

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⚙️ **WEATHERPROOF SAFETY CLOTHING** with luminescent stripes protects policemen, firemen and emergency crews both day and night. Red stripes blaze in daylight, silver ones shine under lights and white stripes glow in the dark. The low-cost clothing comes in three styles, slip-on cape, belted cape and one-button vest. Each model folds compactly to pocket size.

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⚙️ **GAME SET** includes games of skill that are both educational and recreational for young and old. More than 40 stimulating games may be played on the same board, including mathematical games for the adult. There are games that can be played by the five-year-old and a checker style game. The set consists of the game board, 16 numbered and four-colored pawns, scoring pad and instruction booklet with official rules.

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⚙️ **ELECTRIC PILLOW** useful for hospital and home has a wetproof circuit with three-heat control that prevents overheating. The pillow, which can be substituted for a heating pad, has a pocket to hold the plug-in cord and a slip-over wetproof percale cover.

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• Doctors are Reading •

Insecticide Poisoning

➤ A 47-YEAR-OLD mentally deficient apple rancher went into convulsions and died on the 12th day of illness after using phosphorus insecticides, but cause of death was believed to be from the treatment.

Promazine, a tranquilizer derived from phenothiazine, and not previously suspected of side effects in treating patients poisoned with organic phosphorus compounds, was given both intramuscularly and orally from the eighth to the 12th day of illness. Phosdrin and parathion were the insecticides used by the orchard worker.

Drs. John D. Arterberry, Robert W. Bonifaci, Edward W. Nash and Griffith E. Quinby reported the case from Wenatchee, Wash., in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 182:848, 1962. Dr. Arterberry is now at the University of California School of Medicine, Los Angeles.

Fast Heart in Athletes

Seven athletes, varying from trackmen to football players, were among patients with overactive hearts reported in a study of the hyperkinetic heart syndrome in *JAMA* (p. 823) by Dr. Richard Gorlin of Harvard Medical School and Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston.

The seven athletes were among those referred for heart murmur study, but Dr. Gorlin called attention to them as unusual because all had an increased rate of blood ejection characteristic of the hyperkinetic heart syndrome. He said that either the overactive

heart may be acquired through protracted physical stress in some individuals, or that such a person may be more fit to perform exercise and can outperform others in competition.

Increased rate of blood ejection does not necessarily indicate an increased output of blood per minute, the investigator said. The condition can result in heart failure, although one case has been followed 16 years, beginning at age seven.

"Break in" Football Shoes

Ernie Biggs, chief trainer at the Ohio State University, believes that blisters would not be a problem with the local high school athletes if they followed the OSU example and got their shoes early enough to wear through the summer. At the University of Iowa, blisters also are attributed to improperly fitting footwear. Details of treatment for troublesome blisters on the soles of the feet are given in answer to an inquiry from a Montana doctor in the Questions and Answers section of *JAMA* (p. 149).

FDR's "Little Strokes"

Reports that President Franklin D. Roosevelt suffered multiple strokes before he died of a severe cerebral hemorrhage April 12, 1945, were denied in *Today's Health*, Dec. 1962.

Dr. James A. Halsted, husband of the former President's daughter, Anna, quoted her and the late Eleanor Roosevelt, Grace Tully, FDR's secretary, and his son, James, verifying the fact that the final stroke was the first.

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