

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **ENAMEL PAINT SPRAY** that can be applied to wood, metal, plastic, paper, china and glass comes in a convenient 3.1-ounce aerosol can. Available in 24 colors, including transparent hues and gold, silver and copper metallics, it is chip-resistant. It is useful for painting small household items, wearing apparel or sprucing up picture frames, garden tools or outdoor furniture.

• Science News Letter, 83:64 January 26, 1963

⊗ **SWIVEL FAUCET AERATOR** facilitates rinsing food waste from plates and all corners of the sink. Available with an adapter to fit almost any type faucet, its special type plastic grip permits directing a stream of hot water where needed without burning the hands. It is also handy during food preparation.

• Science News Letter, 83:64 January 26, 1963

⊗ **CAMPUS BIKE** is a small motorcycle that provides low cost transportation for work or school. Ruggedly designed for off the road use, it is also useful to sportsmen, campers and farmers. Weighing 96 pounds, it stores easily in airplane, boat or trunk of a car. It will travel 60 miles on a gallon of gas.

• Science News Letter, 83:64 January 26, 1963

⊗ **SILICONE LUBRICANT SPRAY**, shown in the photograph, for snowblowers, snowplows and snow shovels prevents snow



from sticking to the equipment. When sprayed into the ejection hood of the snowblower just before using, the snow blows out smoothly without clogging. Applied to a snow shovel or snowplow blade, it makes the job quicker and easier. The spray is also useful for sliding surfaces on wood, metal and other materials.

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⊗ **SQUEEGEE PUMP** suitable for corrosive or sterile materials produces a steady flow of liquid or gas. The material is pumped by the squeezing action of a set of rollers on a flexible tube threaded through the pump, thus keeping the contents completely free from the mechanical parts. The pump can be mounted on a flat base or rod and has a capacity of 85 gallons per hour.

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⊗ **WINDOW STEP** helps eliminate the dangers of high altitude climbs while window washing or painting around the home. Lightweight and made of tubular steel, the step, supplied with a safety-guard rail, hooks over any size window and permits comfortable working positions. All house surface-points are protected by non-marring rubber bumpers.

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⊗ **SPORTS CAR ASHTRAY** attaches to the center bump or drive shaft. Held tightly with a spring steel arm, the ashtray remains secure and firmly attached even on the roughest rides. Made of chrome steel with a slide opening on top, it measures three inches high by four and one-fourth inches in diameter. It is easily emptied with a flick of the wrist.

• Science News Letter, 83:64 January 26, 1963

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Rest Affects Heart Size

Prolonged bed rest for patients with enlarged hearts was reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 183:81, 1963, as restoring normal size in 11 of 21 persons treated for periods up to 16 months. Previous treatment, including drugs, was continued, although the patients had shown little or no improvement.

Drs. George E. Burch, John J. Walsh and William C. Black of the U.S. Public Health Service Hospital, New Orleans, who reported the study, said rest allowed the dilated and diseased heart "to recover by natural mechanisms of repair completely unknown to us."

Thirty-six patients with extreme persistent cardiomegaly, enlarged heart, due to heart muscle disease of undetermined cause, were treated with generally good response. Only six failed to improve if they completed their treatment. Four improved partially with definite reduction in heart size.

This heart disease, "essentially 100 per cent fatal, is apparently cured in more than 50 per cent of the patients," the researchers reported, recommending more effort to understand the enlarged heart.

## Thalidomide Deformities in Mice

► IF THALIDOMIDE had been tried on pregnant mice before it was given to pregnant women, there might have been no resulting malformed babies. But this is part of the hindsight that goes with drug experiments.

Dr. Joseph A. DiPaolo of the Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, reported in JAMA, 183:139, 1963, that he found a high incidence of abnormal embryos in litters of strain A mice that had been fed thalidomide in solution.

With this experimental test system, the mystery of what causes the malformations may be unraveled. Thalidomide for the experiments was furnished by the William S. Merrell Company, which is now working with more than 150 laboratories on drug tests as a result of the thalidomide tragedy. Tests are being made on numerous species from protozoa to the higher mammals.

## Treated Cloth Hurts Skin

A physician who wore a pair of slacks treated with a fluorocarbon-containing formulation to make them repellent to stain and water reported severe "contact dermatitis" with itching of hands and legs.

Dr. Louis S. Goodman of the University of Utah College of Medicine, with his dermatologist, Dr. Y. D. Eskelson, also of the University staff, reported in JAMA, 183:138, 1963, that tests with "Scotchgard," the trade name of the substance used on garments, furniture covers and similar items, showed it to be the cause of the skin irritation.

The manufacturer had previously tested the cloth treatment at the University of Minnesota Medical School, with no trouble reported.

Physicians were alerted to report any other cases.

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