

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **HARDWOOD PLANTERS** fitted with waterproof metal insert are mahogany stained. Equipped with four knob-shaped polished brass feet and two brass handles, the 12 by 5½-inch planters are ideal for the indoor gardener. The planters come in sets of two.

• Science News Letter, 83:96 February 9, 1963

⊗ **SAFETY BOTTLE CARRIER** replaces leather or canvas carriers. Made of thick-walled polyethylene that completely encases the bottle, it has a heavy wire handle. The bottle is held firmly in place with a snap cover and is cushioned from shock and breakage. The carrier is especially useful wherever chemicals are used.

• Science News Letter, 83:96 February 9, 1963

⊗ **FLOATING SAFE DEPOSIT BOX** for boating or camping protects cameras, binoculars, watches, money, documents and other items from rain and sea water. Made of cotton with two layers of rubber, the watertight device consists of two sections, one to hold valuables and the other to be inflated. It will also serve as an air pillow, or, in an emergency, as a life preserver.

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⊗ **NON-WOVEN POLLINATION BAG**, shown in the photograph, for controlled pollination studies are weather and rot-



resistant porous fabric bags. The bags allow moisture and air to flow through, preventing condensation, yet do not permit foreign pollen particles to enter. Through an observation window in the bag, the geneticist can see the plants' progress during pollination. The bags are reusable after sterilization.

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⊗ **MULTI-PURPOSE SCRAPER** that will not gouge, jump or slip makes paint scraping faster, smoother and easier. Palm-size and grooved for a secure grip, the scraper fits neatly into the hand. Its 11 double-edged blades are made of hardened steel and designed for long life. An aluminum comb protects the blades when not in use. It will also clean barnacles off a boat or wax from skis.

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⊗ **ROUND BOTTOM FLASK RACK** provides maximum protection with minimum of storage space. Made of heavy gauge wire coated with a plastic, it provides a resilient rust-free cushion for 22 flasks 50 to 1,000 milliliters in size. Eyelets on the rack permit hanging on the wall, thus saving space for other equipment.

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⊗ **ADJUSTABLE BAKING PAN** of aluminum permits baking 49 different size cakes from 4- by 6- to 10- by 12-inches with the same pan. The pan consists of two right angle forms, one of which is attached to the bottom of the pan. Slots in the arms of the angles fit into each other to create the desired size. The versatile pan is also suitable for casseroles, roasting meats and frozen desserts.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Polio-Like Illnesses Remain

► **EVEN** with the elimination of true polio, some polio-like cases will remain. These are caused by non-polio viruses or by no viruses, reports the Journal of the American Medical Association, 183:268, 1963. No poliovirus vaccine can stop them.

Dr. Albert B. Sabin, whose Type III oral poliovirus vaccine was blamed for 11 cases of polio-like illnesses last year, said in JAMA that it is likely that none of the 11 cases was related to vaccine.

The Public Health Service did not implicate Salk vaccine as a potential risk in 1959, Dr. Sabin said, although a number of correlated polio-like illnesses occurred following vaccination with the killed virus vaccine of Dr. Jonas Salk.

Proper virologic studies of the small number of suspect polio cases should be carried on as part of future watchfulness by physicians and public health officers, Dr. Sabin said.

Liquor's Warmth Illusion

Flushing of the face and skin produced by drinking alcohol gives only an illusion of warmth, an article in Today's Health, Feb., 1963, says. Below the skin surfaces the drinker is just as cold or colder than before. Neither does a drink always lift one's spirits, a study by Dr. Edith Lisansky of Yale University indicates.

Odd Food Cravings

Starch in the food is acceptable in proper amounts, but when a patient takes large mouthfuls from a starch box he may have an iron deficiency. Dr. Robert E. Stone of the department of

nutrition and metabolism, Northwestern University, in the question and answer section of JAMA, 183:300, 1963, said the desires of small children to eat dirt, or of patients craving clay or starch are all due to a type of anemia that disappears along with their bizarre appetites after treatment with ferrous sulfate.

Brain Malady Corrected

High speed injection of stiff, sterile hog or horse hairs into an aneurysm inside the brain has been successful in 11 patients, Dr. John P. Gallagher of Georgetown University and Providence Hospitals reported in JAMA, 183:231, 1963.

Called pilojection, this new concept in surgical treatment is based on the fact that a shaft of hair has scales that cause the blood within the sac of the aneurysm to begin clotting. After the clotting takes place connective tissue cells, called fibroblasts, invade the sac and cause scar-like tissue so that the distended wall of the artery shrinks to normal size.

Perspective on Pesticides

Pesticides are a great boon to mankind, Dr. David E. Price, assistant Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, was quoted as saying in an article in Today's Health, Feb., 1963. The alarm of some persons that insecticides cause human and animal diseases is not shared by scientists who have studied insecticides, nor by the vast majority of physicians, another PHS staff member, Dr. Wayland J. Hayes Jr., said. DDT is credited with saving at least five million lives during World War II.

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