

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **PORTABLE CAMP STOVE** for outdoor living comes in a slim metal case, 18 by 11 by 8 inches with sturdy folding legs. Fueled by spotless and odorless propane gas contained in two disposable cylinders within the stove, it is ready for use without priming or pumping. It has two burners and flames are protected by built-in stainless steel shields. Replacement cartridges are available at local stores.

• Science News Letter, 83:224 April 6, 1963

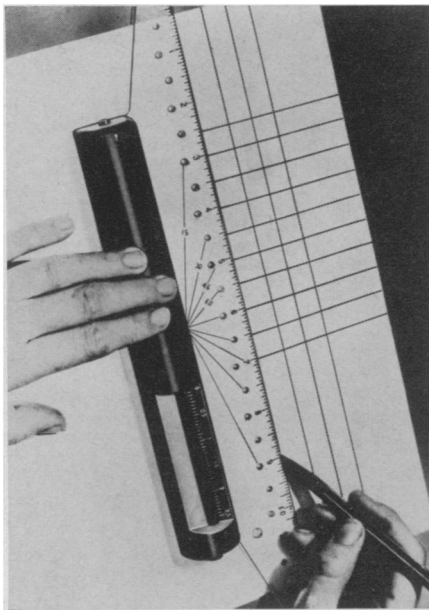
⚙️ **THREE-CHANNEL TAPE RECORDER** weighs only five and one-half pounds but its new a.c. bias circuit for the record, playback and erase heads gives it a performance range equal to that of expensive high fidelity recorders. The portable set includes a telephone pick-up for recording phone conversations, remote control mike, earphone, tape and a leather carrying case, and gives two hours' playing time.

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⚙️ **MARBLE TABLE** for use with analytical balances reduces vibration. Weighing 650 pounds, the table provides greater stability when reading optical scales and assures maximum freedom from vibration. A 50-pound marble slab for table top use is also available.

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⚙️ **ROLLING RULER** that serves as a portable drafting tool has a built-in roller



that glides smoothly up and down the paper. Made of clear plastic, the 12-inch rule, shown in the photograph, has spaced holes for drawing vertical and parallel lines quickly and for making arcs and circles. A spiral index window indicates distances between lines as close as 1/16 inch.

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⚙️ **NEW HUMIDIFIER** works on water pressure requiring only a connection to a 20- to 100-pound pressure water supply and a drain. The large droplets of water are separated and drained away inside the nine-inch-long plastic discharge tube, leaving only a smoky fog that is instantly absorbed in the air. To operate, one-half to two gallons of water per hour are required.

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⚙️ **MAGNETIC SHOWER CURTAIN HOLDERS** prevent water from splashing on the bathroom floor when showering. Included in the set are six magnets, 1½ by ¾ inches in size, three to be mounted on the wall and three to be clipped to the curtain opposite those on the wall. The attraction between the magnets seals the curtain against the wall. The magnets can be removed when the curtain is washed.

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⚙️ **ELECTRONIC REMOTE CONTROL SYSTEM** that allows control of all household lamps and appliances from any room in the house saves time and energy. The system consists of a unit attached to any lamp over which control is desired and a control switch in another location, both plugged into the household circuit. By including an automatic timer in the circuit a heater or coffee pot can be turned on at the desired time.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Mental Disease, Abnormal Heredity Linked

► **THE MOST COMMON** mental disease, schizophrenia, has been linked with abnormalities of heredity, a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 183:1022, 1963, says.

Persons with abnormal sex chromosomes are more frequently schizophrenic than ordinary people, Drs. Theophile Raphael and Margery W. Shaw of the University of Michigan Medical School, Ann Arbor, reported.

Their analysis of 105 men and 105 women schizophrenics, patients withdrawn from reality, showed one man and one woman with extremely rare abnormalities of the sex chromosomes. Both had three instead of the normal two.

Another study, in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 8:242, 1963, revealed two cases of schizophrenia and five mentally defective patients, all of whom had abnormal sex chromosomes. Dr. John Money and Steven R. Hirsch of Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, said there may be a closer genetic linkage between mental deficiency and schizophrenia than can so far be demonstrated.

## Varicose Veins

Heredity and pregnancy have a definite influence on the development of varicose veins, Dr. Noah D. Fabricant of Chicago reported in *Today's Health*, April 1963. One of every two women and one of every four men over the age of 40 has varicose veins—enlarged, swollen blood vessels that no longer function normally, he said.

There are two kinds of treatment for troublesome varicose veins, injections and surgery. As a preventive measure, long hours of standing should be avoided, Dr. Fabricant said. Pregnant women should spend a regular amount of time in a reclining position. They should elevate the legs when sitting a long time. When on long plane or train trips, all persons with varicose veins should walk about frequently.

## Lemonade Intoxication

Drinking as much as a quart of lemonade can cause a sugar deficiency called hypoglycemia that can readily be mistaken for alcoholic intoxication, Dr. Joseph H. Crampton of Seattle, Wash., said in the questions and answers section of *JAMA*, 183:1062, 1963.

## Preventing Rheumatic Fever

Most rheumatic fever could be prevented, Drs. Burton J. Grossman and Jeremiah Stamler of Chicago said in *JAMA*, 183:985, 1963. In an accompanying editorial (p. 1034), Dr. Alan C. Siegel, also of Chicago, said parents, teachers and public health nurses should be educated to refer children with even a mild upper respiratory infection to a clinic or doctor for a throat culture.

Group A streptococcal infection, which causes rheumatic fever, can be treated with antibiotics, preferably penicillin, for a ten-day period.

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