

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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• LIQUID ORGANIC DETERGENT is an all-purpose household cleaning agent for dishes, floors and other uses that does not cause detergent pollution of water supplies. Entirely organic, it is completely digestible in septic tanks and sewage disposal systems. The compound is non-poisonous and can be used with safety in homes with infants or small children.

• Science News Letter, 83:254 April 20, 1963

• DESK-TOP SLIDE THEATER, useful to salesmen, teachers and scientists, is compact and portable. Ten inches square with a built-in projector and push-pull slide changer, it gives clear brilliant color pictures in normal room light. Any type of two-by-two slide mounts, glass, metal, plastic or cardboard, can be used and intermixed.

• Science News Letter, 83:254 April 20, 1963

• COMPACT PLANETARIUM, made of plastic and designed for home use, includes a 16 mm filmstrip projector showing a trip through the solar system, aircraft identifications and over 200 pictures for the space age. It shows all major constellations and adjusts for months and geographic location. Among accessories included with the unit are an eclipse projector, planet projector and detachable pointer.

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• CAR ACCESSORY MAT, shown in photograph, is transparent and enhances the natural color of new car carpeting. Remaining flexible even in sub-zero temperatures, it is easily cleaned, odor-free and lasts four times as long as rubber mats. It is particularly resistant to damage from women's spike heels.

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• ANTI-WICK TWEEZERS help electronics workers meet soldering specifications. The device made of solid beryllium-copper prevents solder from flowing under the insulation, or "wicking," and is constructed with the required conductor contact area. Provided with a new cross-over joint, slippage is minimized at the wire-holding end of the tool.

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• LIGHTWEIGHT MICROSCOPE for medical students, industrial and educational laboratories is moderately priced. Rugged, it is also suitable for fieldwork. The microscope features Swiss optics and craftsmanship with a wide variety of attachments, such as photomicrography and phase contrast, easily interchangeable accessories and low-placed fine adjustment.

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• TABLE CIGARETTE LIGHTER of Danish styling in silver plate uses butane fuel, giving more quick, clean lights than the wick types. Suitable for office desk or table, the lighter is provided with a dial for adjusting flame height for cigarettes, cigars or pipes. Over a year of lights is furnished with one butane filling.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Cord Clamping Affects Baby's Breathing

► A NEWBORN BABY should take his second breath before the umbilical cord is clamped, a report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 184:48, 1963, said. About 27% of infant deaths during the first seven days of life are caused by difficulty in breathing and incomplete expansion of the lungs at birth, a report from the School of Medicine, University of California at Los Angeles, said.

All of the 129 infants in the study were either premature, delivered by cesarean section or were born of diabetic mothers, because breathing of babies is harder under these circumstances. The findings not only implicate early cord clamping as a cause of respiratory distress, but support the idea that this difficulty is not related to cesarean delivery in itself.

Drs. Arthur J. Moss, Edward R. Duffie Jr. and Leonard M. Fagan deplored the carefree manner in which an infant is disconnected from his oxygen supply without assurance that he will breathe.

Life-Saving Operation

A 32-year-old physician is practicing again because his life was saved by an emergency operation that completely corrected a usually fatal artery condition.

The young doctor had acute "dissecting aneurysm," which is much more dangerous than the usual serious condition that surgeons have been able to repair in the past ten years, a group of Houston surgeons pointed out in *JAMA*, 184:63, 1963.

In the acute form, a transverse split occurs in the inner and middle layers of the aorta where this main artery arches up from the heart. The tear may extend all around the inner circumference of the artery. Blood pumped from the heart into the aorta then

flows through the tear and opens a new channel between the layers of the artery wall, creating a double-barrel effect.

The young doctor was able to telephone a physician when these events began happening, but then he collapsed. In seven hours he was on the operating table at the Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, and the newly formed blood channel was closed by continuous stitches. This allowed the separated layers of the artery wall to heal back together and the aortic valve to resume its normal function.

Drs. George C. Morris Jr., Walter S. Henly and Michael E. DeBakey of Baylor University College of Medicine, Houston, reported the case.

Tranquilizing Drug Safe

With so much alarm being caused by dangerous drugs that have not been fully tested, it is reassuring to be told that chlorpromazine, which has been given to millions of mental patients all over the world in the past ten years, definitely merits confidence.

Dr. Frank J. Ayd Jr., chief of psychiatry, Franklin Square Hospital, Baltimore, said in *JAMA*, 184:51, 1963, that although this drug is capable of causing allergic responses, the risks are much less than formerly supposed.

Even pregnant women have taken chlorpromazine without harming their babies, Dr. Ayd said.

Codeine Safe for Children

Children under two years of age can be given cough medicine containing codeine with safety, Dr. Frank C. Ferguson of Albany, N. Y., said in the questions and answers section of *JAMA*, 183:87, 1963.

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