

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **CABINET SPACE SAVER** for the bathroom attaches to any shelf in the medicine cabinet. Made of easy-to-clean aluminum, 3½ inches deep and 12 inches long, the rack hangs below the regular shelf to which it is attached. It is grooved to hold pill bottles, tubes, tweezers and other small items.

• Science News Letter, 83:272 April 27, 1963

☛ **HANDY KNIFE SHARPENER** keeps the pocket knife blade sharp and ready for use. Only 2½ inches long, the sharpener can be carried in the pocket. By drawing the blade across the tempered steel sharpening unit embedded in the plastic handle a few times, the knife can be kept razor sharp at all times.

• Science News Letter, 83:272 April 27, 1963

☛ **MAGNETIC KEY HOLDER** eliminates the inconvenience of lost car keys. Provided with a strong magnet that attaches on the car behind the bumper, under the fender or any other secret place made of iron or steel, the case, which will hold three keys, can be hidden from view. The holder slides open like a drawer and will not jar loose.

• Science News Letter, 83:272 April 27, 1963

☛ **ELECTRIC FURNITURE POLISHER**, shown in photograph, has a rotary action that gives a uniform shine to furniture, eliminating the swirls and dull spots caused



by disc-type buffers. Light, compact and easy to handle, the two-speed polisher can be used with paste, liquid or spray waxes and produces either satin or high-gloss finishes. Both buffer and brush for hard-to-shine areas are washable.

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☛ **POCKET-SIZED MOVIE CAMERA** has all features of a full-sized camera, yet is compact and small enough to be slipped into a man's pocket. The 8mm camera, provided with a 10mm-25mm zoom lens, has battery-driven film speeds of 12, 16 and 24 frames per second and a cadmium sulfide electric eye. The aperture is automatically selected and indicated by a needle which also warns the photographer when light conditions are insufficient. The camera weighs only 26 ounces.

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☛ **PRECISION SCALES** are designed for fast accurate weight comparison of packaged products with standard weight. Useful to food processors, pharmaceutical manufacturers and other industrial users to detect overfill as well as underfill, the scales are highly sensitive and not affected by strong air currents or sudden temperature changes. They are corrosion resistant and easily cleaned.

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☛ **PET DRINKING FOUNTAIN** refills automatically as the animal drinks, providing a constant supply of fresh, clean water. The fountain is adjustable to height and can be easily attached to any outside water faucet. The set includes a two-foot hose, couplings, bracket, pipe, valve and bowl.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Insanity Laws Need Sweeping Revisions

Some of the laws covering insanity pleas in criminal cases are so archaic that they are dangerous.

Sweeping and immediate changes in the word and spirit of the law on criminal responsibility are needed, Drs. Franklin G. Ebaugh and John M. Macdonald report in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 184:131, 1963.

The tests of criminal responsibility in most states are derived from the English M'Naghten Rules, they said, under which the accused is sane unless his mind is so diseased that he did not know the nature and quality of the act he was doing or did not know that it was wrong. Some courts interpret the Rules very liberally, but there will always be the danger of injustice as long as they remain in force, they said.

The two psychiatrists recommend that the M'Naghten Rules be abolished and replaced with the concept of "diminished responsibility" along the lines of the Homicide Act introduced into English Law in 1957.

Under the concept of diminished responsibility, the defendant could be sentenced to prison for a fixed term or placed on probation and be given psychiatric or other medical treatment.

The two physicians are affiliated with the department of psychiatry, University of Colorado School of Medicine.

## Rh-Antibody in Mother's Milk Harmless

Although the Rh-negative blood factor in a mother can cause serious complications in an Rh-positive child, it should not prevent breast feeding.

Dr. J. M. Bowman, Winnipeg, Canada, reported in the *American Journal of Diseases of Children*, 105:352, 1963, that there has been speculation in the past 15 years that prolonged anemia in breast-fed babies with Rh-negative mothers might be due to the absorption of antibody from the mother's milk.

Although Rh antibody in breast milk has been found for at least three weeks after birth, the amount is too small to produce harmful effects in the nursing infant, Dr. Bowman said.

## Fingernail Growth Slows With Age

➤ **FINGERNAILS** grow more slowly as you age. Dr. William B. Bean of the University of Iowa found this when he measured the growth rate of his left thumbnail monthly for more than 20 years, starting at age 32. A sharp decline in growth rate began at age 49 and seems to be continuing, he reported in *Archives of Internal Medicine*, April 1963.

His measurements were made by marking the nail with a file at the cuticle on the first day of each month, then photographing it at intervals. He found some unaccountable spurts and lags in growth over the years, but these were not associated with the seasons of the year or variations in climate.

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