

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ROCKET FLARE LAUNCHER KIT**, ideal for hikers, hunters and other sportsmen, includes a four-inch pen-type launcher and flares. Made for safety, survival and signaling purposes, the launcher will fire and hurl a flare 200 to 250 feet, depending upon the weather, visible in a 25-mile quadrant at night and for two miles in the daytime. The flare burns out completely with no residue before reaching the ground.

• Science News Letter, 83:320 May 18, 1963

⚙️ **PORTABLE RADAR ALARM** for home and stores provides protection through an invisible radar barrier. Simple to install, the device has a range of 15 feet in all directions and of 10 feet in thickness. It sounds an alarm the instant any motion is detected and continues to sound for one minute after the intruder has left the area. Consisting of detector, alarm and control, the system plugs into an ordinary wall socket.

• Science News Letter, 83:320 May 18, 1963

⚙️ **KEY BEAM LAMP** that gives a light by simply squeezing attaches to the key or key chain, eliminating groping in the dark for the keyhole. Wired with platinum, the microminiature lamp gives a bright light. The tiny silver energy cell that powers the key beam lasts a lifetime.

• Science News Letter, 83:320 May 18, 1963

⚙️ **BUMP-PROOF BABY BATH**, shown in photograph, is molded of soft, light-



weight vinyl foam and is insulated to keep the water warm. The bath, which has no hard supporting frame or sharp corners, is provided with recessed handles at each end and a self-storing three-foot drain hose with squeeze lock. Available in pink, blue or yellow, it is easily cleaned and not affected by soaps and cleaners.

• Science News Letter, 83:320 May 18, 1963

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC FLIP CHART**, useful to advertisers, salesmen and teachers, automatically flips display charts, talks and shows products. By plugging in the device the speaker can stand, sit or walk anywhere in the room and flip the pages automatically by pressing a button. By combining with a pre-recorded audio signal synchronized with the narration, the pages can be flipped completely automatically.

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⚙️ **PLACE-HIT TRAINER** is designed to improve the young player's batting, stance, timing and serving. Working equally well for both left-handed and right-handed players, the set consists of a 30-inch bat and floor level target containing three plastic balls. One ball at a time is served up to the strike zone by the target with a tap of the bat. The balls are sturdy but lightweight and flexible enough to prevent window damage.

• Science News Letter, 83:320 May 18, 1963

⚙️ **RADIOISOTOPES** for laboratory experimentation are available in two-pack and nine-pack sets. The isotopes, supplied in five milliliters water, are contained in 10 ml capacity screw cap vials. The two-pack set contains P-32 and I-131; the nine-pack also includes Co-60, Hg-203 and others. Quantities are generally licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission and no by-product license is required.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Antibiotic Relieves Heart Patients

► **UNEXPECTED RELIEF** for angina pectoris, a chest pain associated with coronary heart disease, was discovered in an antibiotic by three New Orleans physicians, a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 184:421, 1963, says.

They first gave an elderly patient the antibiotic griseofulvin for a fungus condition of his skin. But the patient also had severe angina pectoris.

The beneficial results were so striking that the physicians gave griseofulvin to ten patients with severe coronary heart disease who had at least 20 angina attacks every week. After receiving the drug for two or three days, all of these patients had fewer attacks. Griseofulvin, like penicillin, comes from a strain of the *Penicillium* mold. It was introduced in 1959.

Drs. N. P. DePasquale, J. W. Burks and G. E. Burch of Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, reported the discovery and suggested that the drug might be useful for coronary patients who had not been helped by usual treatments.

Hair Sprays Not Dangerous

Reports claiming that lung damage has resulted from use of hair sprays have not definitely proved relationship, an article in *Today's Health*, May, 1963, states. Preliminary reports on a number of long-range studies involving highly exposed hairdressers indicate little evidence to substantiate a link between the sprays

and accumulation of substances in the lungs, called thesaurosis.

Experiments sponsored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, using laboratory animals, also have failed to show any relationship between the use of hair sprays and lung trouble.

Sponge Bathing for Fever

Sponge bathing is best for fever in young children, two doctors were told in the questions and answers section of *JAMA*, 184:433, 1963. Aspirin can be given for extremely high fever, but not on a 24-hour-a-day basis. A young infant can be endangered by regular doses.

Warm Baths and Arthritis

It is the heat and not necessarily the chemical and physical properties of the spring water at Hot Springs, Ark., that gives benefit to arthritis patients, a doctor was told in the questions and answers section of *JAMA*, 184:434, 1963.

Dr. Donald F. Hill of Tucson, Ariz., who answered the question, said claims that the minerals and gases in the water, plus some radioactivity, had helpful effects were impressions that had not been proved.

"Warm baths are only a part of the total basic treatment in arthritis," Dr. Hill explained, adding that they always should be prescribed by the physician familiar with the baths and with the patient. Otherwise undesirable reactions may result.

• Science News Letter, 83:320 May 18, 1963