

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **AQUARIUM PURIFIER** keeps a fish tank clean and healthy without the use of a filter box. Constructed of plastic tubing with evenly spaced holes, the non-corrosive purifier uses the aquarium gravel as a permanent filtering medium. Its base is buried in the gravel and the water tube cut off just above the water level; the air tube is then connected to an air pump. The device is available in different sizes to fit standard tanks.

• Science News Letter, 83:336 May 25, 1963

⊗ **SCULPTURED FILIGREE PANELS** made of silicon impregnated hardboard form bi-fold wood doors suitable for homes or institutions. They can be used as room dividers, for closets, passageways, storage areas or wherever light diffusing and ventilating qualities are desired. Easily installed, the Venetian style doors come ready-to-paint, in four widths. Bottom and top rails can be cut to fit.

• Science News Letter, 83:336 May 25, 1963

⊗ **TELEVISION CONVERTER** allows any TV model, black and white or color, to receive the new ultrahigh frequency television stations. Easily attached with a screwdriver, the converters permit reception of 70 new UHF stations while continuing to receive the 12 VHF commercial channels now in use. Compact, it is 11¼ by 5¾ by 3 inches in size.

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⊗ **PLASTIC RAIN CAPE**, shown in photograph, keeps one always prepared for the unexpected shower. Made of lightweight durable plastic, the rain cape snaps back into its permanent folds with a gentle pull for storage in its plastic case and can be carried in the handbag, fishing tackle box or car glove compartment ready for instant

use. The five-foot square rain cape is available in slipover or open-front styles.

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⊗ **ROLLING FOOT STOOL**, useful in home, office or library, rolls with a touch of the toe but holds its position when mounted. Its spring casters retract with the weight of the user and the stool grips firmly to the floor until dismounted, when it will roll freely with a gentle push. The two platforms of the 14-inch stool are rubber-treaded for safety and all-around bumpers protect walls and furniture.

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⊗ **SELF-WATERING PLANTER** permits small plants to be left unattended during the owner's absence. The rectangular plastic flower pot, 7 by 4 by 3 inches in size, has hollow walls and base with a stoppered inlet at the top. It holds up to a month's supply of water, depending on the plant. The flow of water is vacuum controlled with the plant drawing only as much water as necessary. It is available in five colors.

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⊗ **ALL-PURPOSE DESK**, with attached adjustable lamp mounted on swivel fitting, is useful to the student, hobbyist or home-maker. Made of solid steel, 34 by 16 by 28 inches, the desk has wear-resistant, two-tone tan baked-in finish.

• Science News Letter, 83:336 May 25, 1963

• Doctors Are Reading •

Kidney Disease Danger From Drugs

► **KIDNEY DISEASE** is possible as a result of taking very large doses of nonprescription drugs for long periods of time to relieve pain, reports in the Journal of the American Medical Association say.

Two editorials, 184:494, 1963, and two articles (p. 435) report on the effect of phenacetin, or acetophenetidin. The leading editorial recommends further studies because only circumstantial evidence is available.

Especially emphasized is the fact that phenacetin has been taken in combination with aspirin and caffeine. To condemn phenacetin alone without equal study of the effects of other ingredients is believed unscientific.

The ease with which pain-killing drugs can be obtained and the highly persuasive advertising, along with public belief in their safety, have led to overuse that can be dangerous. A patient who bought 100 tablets of Anacin every four days was cited as an example. A widespread educational program on proper use of such drugs is recommended.

Severe Effects From LSD

The experimental drug LSD-25 has joined marihuana, the barbiturates, amphetamines, or pep pills, and the narcotics in black market evils, an article in the Archives of General Psychiatry, 9:51, 1963, warns.

Drs. Sidney Cohen and Keith S. Ditman of Los Angeles said that even small LSD religious sects have been established. In some persons with latent grandiose ideas the drug results in intense feelings of unity, death and rebirth, salvation and redemption.

Even when the effects of the drug wear off, they said, the belief that the individual has been chosen to convert others to using LSD may persist.

LSD-25, the short name for d-lysergic acid diethylamide, is a derivative of the fungus, ergot. It is legally distributed by manufacturers only for scientific investigations.

"Until the indications, techniques and precautions are better understood," the investigators said, "LSD therapy should be restricted to investigators in institutions and hospitals where the patient's protection is greater." When properly employed, LSD is a relatively safe and important research tool, they pointed out.

Heart Disease in Drivers

The death of seven persons when a bus belonging to the department of hospitals of New York crashed into the East River because the driver had heart trouble points up the need for more frequent examinations, a report in JAMA, 184:481, 1963, states.

Drs. Robert L. Levy, Clarence E. de la Chapelle and Dickinson W. Richards, all of New York, recommended annual reexamination of all drivers of public vehicles up to the age of 60, and twice a year after that.

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