

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **INTRODUCTORY CHROMATOGRAPHY KIT** permits the application of thin-layer chromatography technique on a trial basis. The kit contains the minimal equipment required to produce and develop thin-layer chromatograms and 14 different adsorbents, which allow the selection of an adsorbent appropriate to the needs of the analyzer. An extensive bibliography is included.

• Science News Letter, 83:352 June 1, 1963

⚙️ **PHOTOCONDUCTIVE CELLS** of cadmium sulfide come in two types: a welded, hermetically sealed and gold-plated transistor can and an unmounted thin plastic-coated cell with leads attached that is only 0.050 inch thick. Both are available in five resistance types ranging upward from 50 to 60 ohms at 300 foot-candles and dark resistance of five megohms.

• Science News Letter, 83:352 June 1, 1963

⚙️ **SMALL PET CARRIER** provides safe transportation of animals. The polyethylene carrier has a rounded top that prevents luggage from being placed on top and causing suffocation of the pet. Air vents one-half inch in diameter are provided on each end and on the curved surface. About 19 by 13 by 12 inches in size, the lightweight container has extruded bubbles on the bottom preventing direct contact with cold floors.

• Science News Letter, 83:352 June 1, 1963



⚙️ **FOLDING PEG LEG TABLE**, shown in photograph, serves as a lap tray for buffets, a writing desk for the bedridden and a sketch board for artists. Lightweight and easy to carry, the stainproof table consists of a flat board with one hole through which an adjustable T-form leg is inserted. The table can be held flat on the lap or at an angle, depending upon its use.

• Science News Letter, 83:352 June 1, 1963

⚙️ **MAGNETIC WALL VASE**, cone-shaped and six inches tall, attaches to vertical surfaces made of any material, wood, metal, glass or plastic. Requiring no nails, holes or screws, the removable, plastic vase can be mounted on kitchen cabinet, inside a car or on a wall. A converter, consisting of a metal disk with pressure-sensitive tape, is provided for attaching to non-ferrous material.

• Science News Letter, 83:352 June 1, 1963

⚙️ **PORTABLE AIR-CONDITIONER** imported from England works the same way as a regular air-conditioner, yet needs no window outlet. Particularly useful for "spot" air-conditioning such as in doctors' offices, boats and kitchens, the system when plugged into an electrical outlet draws air through a fan, filter and small refrigerator unit and finally through a dehumidifier. It is also convertible into a heater.

• Science News Letter, 83:352 June 1, 1963

⚙️ **POP-UP LAWN SPRINKLER** is made of plastic with brass spiral spraying elements. One-half inch in size, it connects directly to plastic tees for use with plastic pipe, permitting construction of an inexpensive automatic sprinkling system. Its flush top prevents clogging with dirt or grass and, since there are no internal parts, the sprinkler gives non-clogging performance.

• Science News Letter, 83:352 June 1, 1963

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Inhalations for Asthma

Inhalation of corticosteroids has been reported a successful substitute for taking these steroids by mouth. Dr. Hylan A. Bickerman and Sylvia E. Itkin of Columbia University said in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 184:533, 1963, that inhalation avoids the undesirable hormone reactions so often accompanying steroid treatment for asthma. The researchers said they had obtained marked relief in 35 patients with severe bronchial asthma.

## New Technique for Heart Patients

➤ **POOR SURGICAL** risks and those whose hearts do not respond to drug treatment are now being helped by a **unique method** of electrical stimulation, reports in *JAMA*, 184:544, 582, 1963, state.

An electrode is inserted into a vein, preferably the right external jugular vein in the neck, then guided into the right ventricle of the heart. When the electrode has been secured inside the heart chamber, it is attached to a power source, either a battery or a wall plug.

Two articles and an editorial discuss this new technique, which the editorial says is one more stepping-stone toward ideal treatment of heart block. It can also be used to treat Adams-Stokes disease, which is marked by a very slow pulse and attacks of fainting, vertigo and convulsions.

Dr. Roman W. DeSanctis of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School reported that 12 of 16 patients on whom he had used the technique survived. He warned that in general it

should not be used on patients with evidence of irreversible heart or brain damage.

Drs. I. Richard Zucker, Victor Parsonnet, Lawrence Gilbert and Maxim Asa of Newark Beth Israel Hospital in New Jersey reported that they found subsequent major operations uneventful when the heart rate was electrically controlled during surgery.

## Spray Suspected in Death

The death of an eight and a half month old baby girl formerly in good health is believed to have been caused by an exterminating insecticide spray containing organic phosphates and chlordane.

Autopsy at the University of Chicago Hospitals where the child was treated could not prove definitely that the spray caused the child's death, but the physicians said the findings are "highly suggestive." Blood sugar deficiency (hypoglycemia) and neurological signs were evident. They advise doctors to consider insecticide poisoning as a possible factor when hypoglycemia is found without apparent cause in infants, in *JAMA*, 184:590, 1963.

## Typhoid Boosters

A single dose of typhoid vaccine as a booster shot has been shown effective in persons previously immunized earlier, Dr. Geoffrey Edsall of Boston said in the questions and answers section of *JAMA*, 184:608, 1963. He said that giving a booster shot is the policy of most health departments.

• Science News Letter, 83:352 June 1, 1963