

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **HEAVY DUTY BEAKERS**, for use where glassware is roughly handled in the laboratory and in central mechanized washing facilities, have extra heavy rims and uniform wall thickness. Because they last three to five times as long as conventional beakers, replacement costs can be reduced more than 50%.

• Science News Letter, 83:400 June 22, 1963

⚙️ **DOG REPELLENT**, especially useful to mailmen, milkmen and public utility personnel, stops ferocious attacking dogs in their tracks without producing lingering ill effects on the animal. Squirted in a solid stream from an aerosol can, the solution reaches 15 feet. The repellent when applied on the dog's face creates a temporary burning sensation without permanent damage.

• Science News Letter, 83:400 June 22, 1963

⚙️ **PORTABLE REFRIGERATOR**, entirely electrically powered, can be run on 110-volt house current or plugged into an automobile cigarette lighter, boat or trailer battery systems. The high-impact plastic refrigerator, weighing only 42 pounds when empty, will hold 35 pounds of food and beverages. It is easy to clean and has a flip-lid that minimizes refrigeration loss.

• Science News Letter, 83:400 June 22, 1963

⚙️ **DRY CHEMICAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER**, shown in photograph, suitable



for home, garage, car or boat, is effective against all classes of fire: ordinary combustibles, such as paper and wood; flammable liquids, such as gasoline; and, being a non-conductor, on fires involving electrical wiring. Easily recharged with a new shell after use, it is provided with a self-locking bracket to prevent accidental discharge.

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⚙️ **INFRARED RADIATION THERMOMETER** measures remotely and directly indicates surface temperatures on a calibrated meter. Measuring accurately from 150 degrees to 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit, object sizes may be as small as 0.020 inch. Applications include paper and drying roll temperatures, weld inspection and control, vacuum tube temperatures and paint baking temperatures.

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⚙️ **PROBABILITY KIT** for teachers and students includes cubes for making dice and 20 wooden disks for working problems on chance and calculating the mathematical expectation of winning at gambling. Interesting exercises on basic principles of probability, application of Pascal's triangle, random numbers and mathematical arrangements and combinations are included in the booklet accompanying the kit.

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⚙️ **GEOGRAPHY TRANSPARENCIES** serve as teaching aids in the classroom. The unit, which includes tests and exercises, comes in 12-by-10-inch projectuals for overhead projectors or in standard 35 mm slide form, with up to five overlays in color to identify areas of interest. Nine subjects, such as population density and climate, are covered by the geography series. History and earth science series are also available.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Birth Defects "Epidemic"

➤ **BIRTH DEFECTS** from spinal cord abnormalities in 16 babies born in five Atlanta, Ga., hospitals have caused an intensive investigation, a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 184:768, 1963, states. All babies were white.

This type of "epidemic," like those caused by German measles and thalidomide, the investigators said, may remain undetected because of lack of a standard reporting system.

Reports of any similar "outbreaks" of the neurological abnormality called meningocele or meningomyelocele are requested. The deformity involves a hernial protrusion of the membranes enveloping the brain and spinal cord. So many cases in this limited period cannot be explained statistically by chance alone, Drs. Marvin Boris, Richard Blumberg, Donita B. Feldman and Thomas F. Sellers Jr., Atlanta, reported.

Diets Need Not Depress

Success in a diet can depend on the state of mind the obese person is in when beginning to count calories. The person answering "yes" to a statement such as "at times I think I am no good at all" probably will end up poorly on a diet. However, if he says

"yes" to a statement such as "my daily life is full of things that keep me interested," the diet is likely to be a success.

Drs. William G. Shipman and Marvin R. Plesset of the department of psychiatry of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine reported that about 15% of the 151 patients they studied were depressed both at the beginning and end of diets. Their study is reported in the Archives of General Psychiatry, June, 1963.

Physicians Increase by 4,500

A gain of 4,500 physicians for 1962 was reported in JAMA, 184:785, 1963. This takes into consideration the deaths of 3,500 and the 8,005 first licenses issued out of a total of 17,003 licenses to practice medicine and surgery last year.

Bedsore Healed

An absorbable gelatin sponge inserted for 30 days in the bedsore of 24 patients was reported successful in JAMA, 184:784, 1963. Drs. Leslie W. Freeman and John E. Joyner of Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, said their trial of the method on humans followed a dramatic result with Gelfoam in healing the wound of a paraplegic dog. The animal had a large ulcer that healed in a week.

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