

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **TRANSISTORIZED TELEPHONE AMPLIFIER** enables the user to speak or listen to a telephone conversation from anywhere in the room with both hands free. Slightly larger than a pack of cigarettes, it is usable with any receiver, is completely portable and automatic and has no wires to plug in. The unit can be easily stored in a drawer or carried in the pocket.

• Science News Letter, 85:32 Jan. 11, 1964

⚙️ **ALL-PURPOSE WALL INCUBATOR** for laboratory use is moderately priced. Useful for incubation, paraffin embedding and inactivation, the unit has movable shelves, a six-inch diameter glass observation window and is 10 by 12 by 10 inches in inside dimensions. Its temperature range is from room to 60 degrees Centigrade with a variation of plus or minus two degrees.

• Science News Letter, 85:32 Jan. 11, 1964

⚙️ **METAL PROTECTOR** useful to boaters and hobbyists, as well as in industry, protects all metals from rust and corrosion. Applied from a spray can, it also serves as a lubricant for fine and delicate tools and instruments, removing stubborn squeaks. Effective in any temperature, it will not gum or oxidize and also acts as a penetrant for freezing parts. The protector does not damage paint, rubber, plastics or other finishes.

• Science News Letter, 85:32 Jan. 11, 1964

⚙️ **ELECTRIC GARDEN LAMP**, shown in photograph, to light favorite garden spots,



walks or areaways has a shield molded of plastic in the color, shape and texture of a ginger leaf that blends with the garden background in the daytime. The lamp can be inserted into the ground at any desired spot with its attached aluminum spike. It has a water tight socket and an eight-foot electric cord that plugs into any 110-volt outlet.

• Science News Letter, 85:32 Jan. 11, 1964

⚙️ **TENSION GAUGE** that can be mounted permanently to coil winders registers tension changes while reels are being wound or unwound. Useful for de-reelers and wind-up devices for audio tape, condenser foil, magnet wire, yarns and cords, tension changes can be checked continuously with this instrument. The gauge helps avoid tension peaks that damage film and too low tensions that cause soft spools.

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⚙️ **PORTABLE ELECTRIC MAT** makes steps safe from slippery ice. The electric de-icing mat, consisting of heater wires encased in rugged vinyl that is quilted to make walking safe, melts ice and snow on steps, walks or driveways. To use, the mat is rolled out over the desired area and then its grounded plug connected to standard household current. Designed for use at 15-35 degrees Fahrenheit, the mat's red heating side can also be placed upward to melt snow as it falls.

• Science News Letter, 85:32 Jan. 11, 1964

⚙️ **LIQUID SILICONE RUBBER** makes molds for duplication of small metal objects from lettering to jewelry. The silicone rubber, which sets at room temperature, is poured over the master pattern to form a flexible rubber mold that will withstand temperatures of more than 600 degrees Fahrenheit. Up to 35 exact duplicates of the original can be prepared by pouring a low-melting metal into the mold. No parting agent is required.

• Science News Letter, 85:32 Jan. 11, 1964

• Doctors Are Reading •

Boric Acid Dangerous

➤ **DEATH OF** a 14-year-old boy who was treated with boric acid after receiving second and third degree burns was reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 186:1169, 1963.

The boy was brought to Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, after being treated in another hospital with one percent boric acid soaks two to three times a day. When he was transferred, he was extremely ill and died 36 hours later.

Drs. David H. Baker and Richard E. Wilson, who reported the case, said six other fatal cases had resulted from the use of boric acid for burns.

Disuse of Legs After Injury

A mistaken diagnosis of thrombophlebitis (blood clot in a vein) with prescribed prolonged bed rest resulted in "disuse phenomenon" in many of the patients brought to the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, four doctors reported in JAMA, 186:1129, 1963.

Typical patients are unstable, anxious women. If such patients are given physical therapy and reassurance, their low threshold of pain and swelling usually disappear, Drs. Jacques Trudel, Victor G. DeWolfe, Jess R. Young and Fay A. LeFevre said.

Numb Chin Indicates Malignancy

Unexplained numbness of the chin and lower lip can indicate malignancy, Capt. John R. Calverley and Col. Alex M. Mohnac

of Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, warned in the Archives of Internal Medicine, 112:819, 1963.

Five patients with numbness were found who had cancer of the lower jaw. The symptom may be present for many months before bone changes can be seen by X-ray.

Kissing Bug Migrates

The "kissing bug," once thought to be limited to Mexico and to Central and South America, has spread to the southwestern United States, a Los Angeles doctor reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine, 112:977, 1963.

Dr. Robert L. Swezey reported the case of a 35-year-old housewife who was bitten by a kissing bug in her home in the upper Benedict Canyon region of Beverly Hills, Calif. Several of her neighbors also reported symptoms which include weakness, swelling, fever, severe itching and nausea.

Sickle Cells and Kidney Trouble

Pregnant Negro women with the sickle cell blood trait often found in their race are susceptible to inflammation of the kidneys, Drs. Peggy J. Whaley, Jack A. Prichard and James R. Richards Jr., University of Texas Southwestern Medical School and Parkland Memorial Hospital, Dallas, said in JAMA, 186:1132, 1963. No other abnormalities of pregnancy were found.

• Science News Letter, 85:32 Jan. 11, 1964