

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **MINIATURE TOY COMPUTER** providing fun for both children and adults, is a working reproduction of the giant electronic brain. Capable of adding, subtracting and multiplying, it complements, counts and memorizes. It can solve problems of missile countdown, satellite reentry, logical riddles and also tell fortunes. A step by step instruction booklet permits comprehension according to the individual ability of each child.

• Science News Letter, 85:64 Jan. 25, 1964

⚙️ **RIP REPAIR TAPE** for fixing cuts and tears in vinyl and leather automobile upholstery takes only a minute to apply. A tough, transparent, pressure sensitive tape, it requires no heat for application. When in place, it is not affected by hot or cold water, soap, steam, alcohol, grease and many other solvents and acids. It will not get sticky at the edges. The tape comes in rolls up to five inches wide.

• Science News Letter, 85:64 Jan. 25, 1964

⚙️ **SPRUCE BARK LOG** for cold winter evenings, lights with one match and burns evenly with no smoke. Requiring no kindling or andirons, the logs are especially suitable for the apartment living room. The 12-inch long logs will burn for two hours or more leaving only a tiny pile of ash.

• Science News Letter, 85:64 Jan. 25, 1964



⚙️ **SLIDING SCREEN DOOR CLOSER**, as shown in photograph, for modern homes and terraces automatically closes a sliding screen door smoothly and firmly behind a person passing through. Finished with anodized aluminum, the device is hardly noticeable when in the closed position and does not mar the appearance of the entranceway. It is simple and easy to install.

• Science News Letter, 85:64 Jan. 25, 1964

⚙️ **SIGNAL LIGHT LENSES** are amber-colored and convert automobile turn signal lights from white to the standard safe amber color adopted for all 1963 models. The lenses, which fit directly over the old lenses of most 1958-1962 cars, are held in place by the same screws provided on the cars. Made of vacuum-formed plastic, the lenses are strong and weather-resistant.

• Science News Letter, 85:64 Jan. 25, 1964

⚙️ **LABORATORY JACK**, useful wherever rapid and positive positioning of laboratory equipment is desired, can be mounted on standard laboratory racks and stands of up to .540-inch rods without disturbing existing rod systems. The jack is easily controlled through its 10-inch travel range, locks for safe and secure support of the equipment, and its pistol grip construction allows one-hand operation.

• Science News Letter, 85:64 Jan. 25, 1964

⚙️ **POCKET STAMP** for personal or office use requires no ink pad and can be carried in pocket or purse without danger of smudging clothing or other items. A microporous plastic inking element incorporated in the stamp during molding delivers up to 25,000 impressions. The plastic holder has a hinged snap cover that protects the inking surface when not in use.

• Science News Letter, 85:64 Jan. 25, 1964

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Surgery Increases Breast Cancer Survivals

► **AN EXTENDED OPERATION** for breast cancer has increased the five-year-survival rate from 57% to 70% in groups of patients studied by a Jefferson City, Mo., surgeon.

Dr. Everett D. Sugarbaker said in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 187:96, 1964, that his results from removing the internal mammary as well as axillary lymphatics have been so encouraging that he plans to continue the procedure.

The new technique consists of removing the chain of internal mammary lymph nodes that lie near the midline of the chest, and the operation includes removal of a part of the chest wall overlying the mammary chain.

The operation should not be undertaken yet by all surgeons, Dr. Warren Cole of Chicago said in an accompanying editorial, but the report "does represent progress in our attempt to increase the survival rate after surgical therapy for cancer." Better understanding and further experience are needed for long-term evaluation of the new technique.

## Prolonged Fasts Hazardous

In one of the longest recorded fasts, a 315-pound woman, aged 39, lost 116 pounds in 117 days, a group of Los Angeles doctors reported. They studied 11 obese patients on a water and vitamin diet.

Although some potentially serious complications such as temporary anemia, low blood pressure and gout occurred among all

11 of the obese patients, the problems usually disappeared after they started eating again.

"Prolonged starvation" should not be viewed as a panacea for all obese persons, the researchers said in their report.

They pointed out that the chief danger lay in over-eager reducers extending the period of safe supervised starvation. They become less hungry the longer they go without food.

Drs. Ernest J. Drenick, Marion E. Swendseid, William H. Bland and Stewart G. Tuttle of the University of California at Los Angeles Department of Medicine and School of Public Health reported the study in *JAMA*, 187:100, 1964.

## New Virus Causes Meningitis

An outbreak of meningitis in Minnesota in the summer of 1960 has been traced to a newly identified intestinal virus, a group of scientists reported in *JAMA*, 187:90, 1964.

"Giles" virus has been declared the cause of the largest single bloc of intestinal virus infections in the state in that year. Fifty-eight cases of aseptic meningitis, three with temporary paralysis, occurred in widely scattered areas, mainly in the more densely populated parts and most frequently in persons 20 to 24 years of age.

Drs. Jerman Kleinman, Marion K. Cooney, C. Barton Nelson, with Glenna Swanda and Lloyd Boyd of the Minnesota State Health Department, and Dr. Richard R. Owen of the University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis, reported the study.

• Science News Letter, 85:64 Jan. 25, 1964