

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **ULTRA-THIN SLITTING BLADES** for milling machines will cut fine precise slits in metals, plastics and in a variety of other materials. Made of solid carbide, the blades may be as thin as two-thousandths of an inch in diameters up to one and one-half inches. The blades are available individually or can be custom-made to specifications.

• Science News Letter, 85:80 Feb. 1, 1964

⚙️ **AUTOMATIC WHEEL BALANCERS** work while cars and trucks are in motion to produce a smooth ride and help eliminate uneven tire wear. The balancers, which are snapped inside the rim of the wheel, consist of transparent plastic hoops containing steel balls and a special fluid. As the wheels rotate, the steel balls move by centrifugal force to positions in the hoop, thus dampening vibration. Sizes are available for all type cars.

• Science News Letter, 85:80 Feb. 1, 1964

⚙️ **ENLARGER-PRINTER** overcomes the problems of the diminishing size negatives and allows the hobbyist to make oversize prints in the home darkroom easily and economically. The device "blows up" tiny negatives to photofinisher size to be printed directly and as simply as with the contact printer. The high impact heat resistant enlarger-printer is made for film sizes 127, 126 and 35mm and can be plugged into any household outlet.

• Science News Letter, 85:80 Feb. 1, 1964



⚙️ **FURNITURE ANTIQUING KIT**, as shown in photograph, provides the housewife an easy way to antique furniture without removing the old paint or varnish first, even if marred, checked or fogged. The kit containing an undercoater, color glaze, two brushes, sandpaper, cheesecloth and complete instructions has sufficient material for finishing two chairs. The glaze which can also be used on new unfinished furniture dries to a dull satin sheen.

• Science News Letter, 85:80 Feb. 1, 1964

⚙️ **FLUORESCENT EMBOSSING TAPES** in three colors, scarlet, sun and green, are especially valuable where attention-getting, warning or safety instructions are important. When the tapes are embossed, the message appears in white against a glow color background. Resistant to water, dirt, oil, grease and most acids, the tapes are effective in both artificial and natural light. They come in ¼, ⅜ and ½-inch sizes.

• Science News Letter, 85:80 Feb. 1, 1964

⚙️ **SMALL ANIMAL CARRIER**, 19 x 13 x 12 inches, for transporting pets, laboratory animals or birds, is lightweight and made of rigid non-toxic plastic. The carrier is constructed with a slanted front and back to allow sufficient ventilation for the animals and is curved on top to prevent luggage or other objects from being stacked on it. The carrier may be sterilized and has a steel reinforced plastic mesh door that can be locked.

• Science News Letter, 85:80 Feb. 1, 1964

⚙️ **HYDRO-AIR GUN** for fast effective cleaning of engine, machinery, walls and floors, converts water and compressed air into a pressurized blast of "cold steam" that produces no back-splash. Air and water fed into the gun through separate connections produce the spray whose force and volume are adjustable by a screw-type valve. A special siphoning attachment is available separately for use with the cleaning solution.

• Science News Letter, 85:80 Feb. 1, 1964

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Sex Chromatin Deficiency

➤ **WOMEN THOUGHT** to be neurotic because of bizarre chemical allergies to such things as detergents have been shown to be deficient in sex chromatin, presumed to be the female sex chromosome.

Chemical offenders also include plastics, insecticide residues, turpentine, preservatives, food dyes, chlorine bleaches, ammonia, combustion, residues of diesel oil and gasoline—and even ordinary gas stoves.

Too many patients who develop a runny nose, headaches, stomach disturbances, emotional depression and other symptoms have been diagnosed as psychoneurotic or even psychotic, Drs. Lois I. Platt and Eloise W. Kailin of George Washington University, Washington, D. C., said in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 187:182, 1964.

Patients diagnosed with "startlingly low" counts of sex chromatin (discovered by microscopic studies of cells from the cheek or the vagina), became physically and emotionally normal when the offending physical environment was suitably controlled, the researchers said.

## Viruses Cause Bronchitis

Chronic bronchitis, which the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee linked to cigarette smoking, has also been associated with several different viruses, a study reported in the *New England*

*Journal of Medicine*, 270:123, 1964, shows. Most of the 30 persons studied smoked, however.

Vaccines, including influenza vaccine injections, could be life saving for chronic bronchitis patients, said Capt. Albert D. Carilli, Dr. Robert S. Gohd and William Gordon, all of the U.S. Air Force Hospital, Andrews Air Force Base, Washington, D. C.

They urged development of a combined virus vaccine from the more prevalent viruses causing chronic bronchitis, including those causing influenza.

Although this past year's influenza vaccine was ineffective, perhaps owing to an antigenic variation of the virus, the researchers said this should not negate or discourage its use.

## Hearing Better in Africa

Hearing ability is superior among remote tribesmen of the Sudan in northeast Africa to that of city dwellers, scientists reported in the *Archives of Otolaryngology*, 79:18, 1964.

A striking superiority in hearing was found among the Mabaans, who live in a relatively noise-free environment. Drs. Samuel Rosen and Helen V. Rosen of New York, along with Drs. Dietrich Plester of Dusseldorf, Germany, and Aly El-Mofty of Cairo, Egypt, first began their study in 1960, concentrating on the loss of hearing associated with old age. Their present study included ages ten to 70.

• Science News Letter, 85:80 Feb. 1, 1964