

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **NON-BURNING EPOXY COATING** is designed for both exterior and interior use on concrete, wood, metal and plaster. The coating will not support combustion and is suitable for use in schools, hospitals and corridors of other public buildings as well as on boats. Available in various colors and pattern effects, it is waterproof and has high impact and stain resistance.

• Science News Letter, 85:192 March 21, 1964

⚙️ **HAND-HELD MICROPHONE** for fixed and mobile communication applications is suitable for aircraft, boats, police, fire and other emergency vehicles. The close-talking microphone is so constructed that it dissipates background noises that interfere with voice transmission, permitting only the user's voice to be carried. The diaphragm of the microphone is impervious to moisture and corrosion.

• Science News Letter, 85:192 March 21, 1964

⚙️ **READING LAMP-TABLE COMBINATION** holds book or copy upright on an adjustable stand at any desired angle for reading. A lamp attached to the unit throws a glareless light directly on the book. Useful in study, office, sick room or on a platform, the unit can be folded and stored inside a desk drawer when not in use. It is finished in gold and black polished aluminum, is 13 x 14 inches in size, and has an eight-foot cord attached.

• Science News Letter, 85:192 March 21, 1964



⚙️ **PORTABLE POWER UNIT**, shown in photograph, provides electrical power anywhere at any time. The 120-pound unit, which consists of a gasoline engine coupled with an alternator, has outlets for 115 volts AC and 115 volts DC, and also 12 volts DC for automobiles. Useful on camping trips, for yard work, boating, power tools and even to run a TV set, it is also ideal for starting cars in wintry weather.

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⚙️ **SLIP PREVENTIVE SPRAY** for bathtub and shower surfaces helps prevent accidental falls. Sprayed on bathtub or shower floor, it leaves a water-resistant and invisible but tacky nonslip film on the surface. It is harmless to the skin and odorless and can be washed away with any household detergent.

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⚙️ **COMPACT INVERTER-BALLAST** makes it possible to use fluorescent lighting in automobiles and pleasure boats. The tiny device, weighing only four ounces and no larger than a king-size cigarette pack, changes the direct current from the battery of car or boat into high frequency alternating current. Other possible applications include battery-operated emergency lighting for industrial or public buildings.

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⚙️ **VENEERING KIT**, especially suited to beginners, contains all equipment necessary for covering trays, book ends, small boxes or vases. The kit provides two-foot-square pieces of 1/28-inch thick teakwood, walnut, mahogany and prima vera. Included is a pint can of a new quick veneering glue that welds veneer instantly to wood or metal without pressure, eliminating the need for clamps. Complete instructions and catalogue are included.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Married Women's Sick Leave

➤ **MARRIED WOMEN** take more sick leave than married men and single women, previously unpublished statistics shows, but is it because they are sick?

The responsibility of caring for children offers a reasonable explanation for the higher sick absence among married women, Dr. Philip E. Enterline of the U.S. Public Health Service said in the Archives of Environmental Health, March, 1964. He rules out high sick absence due to pregnancy and childbirth because these events occur in the younger years.

"Whatever factors are involved," Dr. Enterline says, "they exist throughout the working life of women who have married."

The sampling on sick absence represents the experience of about 56 million wage and salary workers.

Child Lead Poisonings

Flaking paint is not only unsightly, it is dangerous because young children get lead poisoning from eating it.

A Cleveland medical team found the greatest problem of lead poisoning among children in old housing. Surveying 906 children, aged one to five, the researchers discovered an abnormal presence of lead in the urine of only three percent living in newer housing compared with 25% to 37% in the old housing areas.

The use of lead in paint has decreased steadily since 1940 so that it is only in the older dwellings that the hazard is likely.

The study was reported in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 187:703, 1964, by Drs. Robert C. Griggs, Irving Sun-

shine, Vaun A. Newill, Burritt W. Newton, Stuart Buchanan and Cleo A. Rasch.

An accompanying editorial, JAMA, 187:770, 1964, by Dr. Samuel L. Andelman, Chicago, said the Chicago Board of Health has had an active program for the prevention of lead poisoning for five years. Lead poisoning cases in Chicago must be reported to authorities.

Warning to Mild "Bleeders"

The mild "bleeder," or hemophiliac, may be entirely unaware of his bleeding tendency until surgery or major injury leads to serious results.

Hemophilia, the inherited condition in which blood clotting is delayed or does not occur, is thought to be present in about one in every 10,000 male births. The trait is transmitted by females, but affects only males.

Following a knee injury, an 18-year-old patient at Massachusetts General Hospital suffered complications involving his hip joint because of undiagnosed mild hemophilia. Like other mild bleeders, he had taken part in school athletics.

The Boston physicians who reported his case in JAMA, 187:772, 1964, warned that mild hemophilia should be considered in persistent bleeding after tooth extraction or surgery, or other abnormal bleeding, particularly spontaneous hemorrhage into a joint, by any male. Drs. Arthur M. Pappas, Joseph S. Barr, Edwin W. Salzman, Edward J. Riseborough and Anthony Britten reported the problem.

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