

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **NEW FOUNTAIN PEN** filled with water writes with ink. Useful to students, businessmen or professional people, the pen has an inner tube containing ink activator which provides non-fading, permanent writing ink when filled with water. Refillable from 15 to 25 times with water, the pen will provide up to two years writing with normal usage. The pen is available in six colors.

• Science News Letter, 85:208 March 28, 1964

⚙️ **SAFETY GLASSES** to protect workers' eyes from the danger of flying objects are lightweight and attractively styled. The low-cost safety glasses have built-in side shields for added protection and are similar in shape and size to regular glasses. The glasses are recommended for semi-hazardous operations such as spot welding, buffing, woodworking and home work-bench chores.

• Science News Letter, 85:208 March 28, 1964

⚙️ **BIOLOGY TEACHING AID** for high school and introductory college biology courses consists of 75 transparencies for overhead projectors presenting concepts, principles and mechanisms that apply to all phases of biology. The series at present includes six sets, available in a unit or separately, on biological chemistry and physics, the cell, genetics, DNA, ecology and evolution. A teaching guide and Ditto master for student work sheets accompany each set.

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⚙️ **ELECTRIC SPRAYER**, shown in photograph, for spraying lubricants, solvents, polishes and other low viscosity liquids is economical for users in home or industry. The necessary liquids can be bought in bulk and placed in the refillable sprayer as needed. The sprayer has a built-in AC motor producing a fine mist-like spray. The attached 4-ounce jar is translucent so contents are readily visible.

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⚙️ **NEW MOUSE CAGE** uses disposable transparent plastic liners, eliminating cleaning and maintenance costs. The cages and liner supports, available either in steel or disposable forms, have tapered sides and can be stacked. The cage and liner unit is suitable for laboratory or home and can be used also for studies in botany, entomology and marine life. A special introductory set for ten setups includes disposable liners and disposable supports.

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⚙️ **SELF-ADHESIVE LABEL HOLDER** for office, factory, home or store sticks to any surface, rough or smooth, and can be removed without marring the surface. The label holder, consisting of a flat transparent plastic tube six inches long, is backed with sponge-like urethane containing an adhesive and can be cut to any desired length. The label is inserted into the tube which is available in sizes from  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches and in five colors.

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⚙️ **LONG REACH PRUNER** makes it easy to reach both high and low difficult spots for pruning. Four feet in overall length, it is useful for clipping roses, rose trees, shrubs, and also for picking flowers such as lilacs and apple blossoms. Manipulated with one hand, the pruner is rugged, lightweight, and has a steel blade, brass anvil and non-pinching vinyl grip handle.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Infant Autopsies Urged

➤ **AUTOPSIES** of premature infants were urged by Dr. Sydney H. Kane, executive director of the Foundation for Medical Research, Philadelphia, in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 187:865, 1964.

Especially now when all drugs are under investigation for possible effects on the developing embryo, postmortem examinations should be carefully done.

In a study of 3,700 premature infants who were born dead or who died shortly after birth, Dr. Kane said he found congenital malformations recorded as the cause of death about twice as often among the autopsied as among the nonautopsied cases. Data on unautopsied cases are hardly worth collecting, he believes.

## Family Doctor Disappearing

The family doctor is in danger of disappearing as the specialist takes over the future of medicine, but the danger is as much to the specialist as to the general practitioner.

This warning was sounded in *JAMA*, 187:797, 1964, by a grassroots Georgia physician who calls on the "leadership of organized medicine" to meet the crisis.

Dr. G. R. Foster Jr. of McDonough, Ga., pointed out that if the general practitioner goes, the work of the specialist must be watered down with everyday care of patients now handled by "first-line" bedside and office doctors.

Better education for the family doctor will attract better medical students to general practice, Dr. Foster believes, but there should not be a feeling of competition with any specialty group.

The general practitioner need not be a mediocre surgeon, cutting into a patient's abdomen after a one-year internship in a hospital, Dr. Foster said. Neither should he give anesthetics or act as a "scrub" assistant to a bona fide surgeon.

At present, however, hospital accreditation regulations keep the general practitioner from hospital practice at any level. Insurance companies, government agencies and "medical officialdom in general" are undermining the professional status of general practice, Dr. Foster charged.

## Computer 'Neurosis' Plan

The idea of using a computer as a stand-in for a neurotic patient was reported in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 10:219, 1964, by Dr. Kenneth Mark Colby of Stanford University, Calif.

The neurotic computer program is still in its initial stages, the psychoanalyst said. In one program, 105 beliefs of a woman suffering a neurosis were fed into the computer, with resulting neurotic characteristics in the machine's output.

How closely the computer corresponds to the patient remains untested, and practical applications are at least a couple of years away. One of the weaknesses of the system is that it cannot correct itself.

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