

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **SHOCK ABSORBER FENDER** for private home or club docks is made of high impact clear plastic tubing. Attached to the dock with rubber shear mounts, the fender absorbs shock as the boat lands at the dock and does not dent the boat nor become dented. Resistant to saltwater, each fender is $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter and up to 15 feet long, and can be used on wood or concrete piles.

• Science News Letter, 85:336 May 23, 1964

⊗ **HOME SPRAY SHIELD KIT** eliminates fuss and mess for those who spray-color their shoes at home. The kit includes a plastic glove to protect the hand holding the shoe, two shoe sticks and a spray "booth." A base and two walls of corrugated paper make up the booth, confining the shoe spray within a restricted area.

• Science News Letter, 85:336 May 23, 1964

⊗ **LASER TEACHING KIT** for high school and college science students contains a comprehensive discussion of the entire field of laser science. The kit includes a 45-minute long-playing record lecture plus associated film strips and instruction booklets.

• Science News Letter, 85:336 May 23, 1964

⊗ **PAINT ROLLER COVER**, shown in photograph, made with modacrylic plastic fabric, paints better and lasts longer than



lambswool or other synthetics. Usable with both water-based and oil-based paints, the roller has greater paint pick-up and up to 50% longer work-life. Available in four pile heights, the roller cover can be used for painting wire mesh, chain-link fencing, brick, concrete or stucco as well as regular walls.

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⊗ **CAR VACUUM CLEANER** plugs directly into the cigarette lighter outlet providing a convenient and easy method to keep the car interior clean. The unit, completely portable, comes with cord, upholstery nozzle, flexible hose, extension tube, crevice tool, disposable bags, air filter and storage carton. Compact, it can be stored in the car trunk.

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⊗ **INFRARED BROILER** that operates with propane gas is used right side up for boiling coffee or frying foods and inverted for broiling. Suitable for picnics, camping or cook-outs, the broiler, which has a six-inch tripod stand, broils hamburgers, hot dogs and similar foods quickly with minimum fuss on aluminum foil containers. It can also be used to warm tents, cabins or trailers.

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⊗ **TABLE-TOP BLOWER** only about five inches long provides a steady stream of cool air effective up to 20 feet. Useful in home or office, the blower functions silently and does not annoy even when directed at the face. Operating on 110-volt household current, it can be placed on its base on table, window sill or bookshelf or can be hung by a ring on the wall.

• Science News Letter, 85:336 May 23, 1964

• Doctors Are Reading •

Unstable Persons React to Blood Pressure Drug

➤ **TAUNTING VOICES** and witches' evil spells were among hallucinations suffered by mentally unstable patients reacting to the widely used high blood pressure drug, pargyline hydrochloride.

Psychotic reactions disappeared in the disturbed patients after they were taken off the drug, a team of Philadelphia physicians reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 188:610, 1964.

The manufacturer of pargyline hydrochloride (trade name, Eutonyl, Abbott Laboratories, North Chicago, Ill.) urges caution in prescribing it even for "hyperexcitable personalities," and warns against giving it to persons with mental disease.

Three of 33 patients treated with the drug reacted psychotically, but the investigators said all three appeared to have had previous serious emotional problems.

Drs. Alton I. Sutnick, Laurence B. Weiss, Peter D. Schindler and Louis A. Soloff, all of Temple University Medical Center, reported the study.

Wrestler's Infection

Wrestlers were warned against tangling with opponents with fever blisters by two Boston University physicians who coined a new term for the virus-caused skin eruption. Officially called herpes simplex, the researchers dubbed the acute skin trouble "herpes gladiatorum."

What happens is that a wrestler with a fever blister wipes his mouth and contaminates his hands while wrestling. Then, through

maneuvers such as "locking-up," he scratches and squeezes the back, wrists and other skin areas of his opponent and presses the offending virus into his blood stream. "Locking-up" occurs at the beginning of a match, when each man attempts to grasp his opponent's wrists.

Another wrestling technique is the "cross-face maneuver," consisting of intense, prolonged pressure by the back of the wrist against the face of the opponent.

Herpes simplex takes the form of skin eruptions on various parts of the body. Among 30 cases reported by Drs. Ben Selling and Sidney Kibrick in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 270:979, 1964, chills, sore throat and fever followed the infection, and skin rash reappeared as long as eight months later.

Test for Lung Cancer

Lung cancer cases may be discovered earlier than is now possible by using a simple test of the skin's "electrical resistance," scientists at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, reported in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, May, 1964.

Lung cancer, the most common malignancy in man, is usually not diagnosed for three months to a year after the beginning of symptoms. Earlier discovery, if this new method proves effective in large-scale studies, could lead to more effective treatment.

Dr. Curt P. Richter and James F. Fries, a senior medical student, said that the test is quick, inexpensive and easily given by a single technician.

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