

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **CHROMATOGRAPHY CHAMBER** for performing both ascending and descending chromatography is made of lightweight solvent-resistant plastic. Its glass cover has stoppered holes for conveniently adding solvent during separations. It contains three solvent-holding reservoirs, making it convenient for running two-dimensional separations as well. Magnetic grippers hold the chromatographic slips in place.

• Science News Letter, 88:336 November 20, 1965

⚙️ **MIXER STIRRER**, useful to housewives, is a stainless steel stirrer for making smooth sauces, mashing potatoes or scrambling eggs. The handy kitchen tool consists of a contoured coil one inch in diameter and 3½ inches long with an 11-inch handle. Useful for blending and whipping, it is also suitable for quickly mincing hard-cooked eggs.

• Science News Letter, 88:336 November 20, 1965

⚙️ **HEXAGONAL FASTENER** especially suitable for race car, boat and motorcycle use has high vibration resistance. The fastener, made in two locking parts, is so designed that vibration causes it to tighten its hold. Usable with a regular hex nut or under the bolt head in a "blind" hole, once installed, the nut cannot be removed unless the fastener itself is unscrewed along with it.

• Science News Letter, 88:336 November 20, 1965

⚙️ **LABORATORY FLASK HOLDER**, shown in photograph, made especially for



round-bottom flasks consists of a triangular-shaped stainless steel base with a springy stainless steel finger at each corner. To use, the flask is pushed down between the fingers which hold it tightly. The holder allows the laboratory workers to move the flask from place to place with only one hand, not possible when using the traditional cork rings. The holder comes in various sizes.

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⚙️ **TELEPHONE LIGHT** useful on telephones in darkened sickrooms, unlighted hallways or dark corners goes on automatically when the receiver is lifted and shuts off when it is replaced. The device which clips on the telephone illuminates the dial, eliminating the need for any other light source. Made of plastic and operated by battery, the unit comes in a neutral color to fit all desk model telephones.

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⚙️ **CONTOUR GAUGE** consisting of movable steel teeth held in a metal sheath is useful to carpenter, woodworker or mechanic. The steel teeth of the gauge when held against surfaces such as moldings, table legs or fancy edgings, will match and hold the shape. The contours can then be outlined on tile, linoleum or wood to match perfectly. The tool, six inches long, can be connected with another to make a 12-inch tool.

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⚙️ **TAPE EDITING DEVICE** is a one-piece tape editing workshop consisting of two hand-operated tape winders and a tape splicer mounted on a waterproof base. Provided with an accurately calibrated editing and timing scale, the unit shows at a glance how much tape time is being cut or added to the tapes. The device can be used for editing, repairing or combining recording tapes.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Computer Usage Cuts Blood Inventory

➤ **OUTDATED BLOOD** is a costly loss in blood banks, but computers are helping cut the loss in a large blood bank in Oakland, Calif.

Once a week the computer lists each of 28 hospitals' average usage by blood type, thus keeping their inventories to a minimum, a group of California researchers reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* 194:583, 1965. The system was devised by the Blood Bank of Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association and Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, Sunnyvale, Calif.

Collaborating on the report were Dr. David Singman, Calisto A. Catassi, certified public accountant, and Charles R. Smiley of the Blood Bank; Dr. Willard H. Watterberg of the department of electrical engineering, University of California, Berkeley; and Eric L. Peterson, of the Lockheed Missiles and Space Company. Mr. Smiley is now with Hyland Laboratories, Los Angeles.

Surgery Relieves Chronic Lung Infection

Surgical treatment of some 125 cases of the lung disease called bronchiectasis can relieve long-standing distress.

Symptoms of the disease include dilation and infection within the lungs, often appearing in teen-age youngsters, New Zealand researchers said. Surgery should be reserved for relief of troublesome symptoms, rather than used any time the disease appears.

Surgery may be either unilateral or bilateral. Unilateral cases

are confined to only one segment of the lobe, and 97% of these operations are successful. In 84% of bilateral operations excellent results also are obtained.

Drs. John Borrie and Ivan Lichter of the University of Otago Medical School, Dunedin, New Zealand, reported the findings in the *British Medical Journal*, Oct. 16, 1965.

Breast Cancer Vaccine Used in USSR

Breast cancer vaccine appears to help the survival rate in the USSR. Vaccines made from other tumor antigens have been tried in the United States, but researcher Dr. John Graham of the Roswell Park Memorial Institute, Buffalo, N.Y., told *SCIENCE SERVICE* that the work done by Dr. L. A. Zilber and his co-workers on a vaccine for breast cancer deserved further investigation.

The USSR report was reviewed in *Antibiotic News* 2:1, 1965. Dr. V. V. Gorodilova, who reported the study, had earlier found that breast cancer antibodies existed in 58.5% of breast cancer patients he had studied. By the time the disease had progressed to stage four, no such antibodies were found.

Dr. Zilber and his team worked at the Gersten Oncologic Institute in Moscow, preparing their vaccine from killed cancer cells at the time of surgery. The vaccination called for a series of five injections spaced at five- to seven-day intervals. Collaborating with Dr. Zilber and Dr. Gorodilova were Drs. I. G. Silina, Z. M. Sarayeva, N. P. Maslov and M. A. Sedgarian.

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