

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☸ **TRANSPARENT FILE ENVELOPES** make possible instant identification of contents in a file without opening the folder. Made of pliable vinyl plastic, the envelope has a clear front and various colored backs that provide a simple means for color coding. Useful for all types of filing in home or office, the envelope is designed to fit standard file drawers, measuring  $11\frac{1}{4}$  by  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches including index tab.

• Science News Letter, 88:384 December 11, 1965

☸ **POTTING TOOL** for the home gardener makes it easy to pot and cultivate house plants as well as seedlings grown in flats for outdoor planting. Measuring only seven inches in length, the tool, made of stainless steel, has a small pointed trowel at one end and a two-pronged fork for aerating the soil at the other end. The light-weight tool has a hole for convenient hanging when not in use.

• Science News Letter, 88:384 December 11, 1965

☸ **TRICEPS PICK-UP TOOL** eliminates many of the problems of working with very small, delicate or oddly shaped objects. When the plunger of the pen-shaped instrument is depressed, three resilient hooked fingers flare out from the tip. The fingers are placed over the object and grasp it as the plunger is gently released. Models range in length from  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to 18 inches.

• Science News Letter, 88:384 December 11, 1965

☸ **KIDDIE CHAIR**, shown in photograph,



that will delight young children is designed with the face of a puppy on the back rest. Padded with foam rubber and covered with washable pile fabric, the chair comes in pink or blue with red or yellow trimmed ears. The puppy chair is 18 inches in overall height with a 10-inch high seat. A teddy-bear chair 21 inches tall with a seat height of 11 inches is also available.

• Science News Letter, 88:384 December 11, 1965

☸ **REVERBERATION SYSTEM** for automobile radios is a fully transistorized unit measuring only  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. Suitable for any make or model car, the device transforms the sounds of monaural auto radios into the rich tones of a live performance. The compact unit, which mounts under the dashboard, is permanently installed with attached strips of adhesive foam tape. An instruction booklet is included.

• Science News Letter, 88:384 December 11, 1965

☸ **MOLECULAR MODEL KIT** contains white paintable foam balls of different sizes with sets of double-ended connector screws so that students or teachers can construct molecular structures in the home or laboratory. Red and black marking pins permit graphic representation of the electrons in the outer shell. The reusable teaching aid helps students visualize the geometric structure of molecules and types of bonding.

• Science News Letter, 88:384 December 11, 1965

☸ **APPLIANCE CORD REEL** that fits in the palm of the hand winds and unwinds eight feet of cord to desired lengths. The unit, which comes assembled ready for use has a double action chamber. To wind the cord onto the reel, the center of the cord is inserted into the unit, which is then rotated to draw in both ends of the cord simultaneously. The ends remain free for connecting to either a plug or an appliance.

• Science News Letter, 88:384 December 11, 1965

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Keratosis Suggest Presence of Cancer

► **SMALL HORNLY GROWTHS** on the palms of hands may indicate the presence of cancerous tumors.

These growths, called keratosis, were found four to five times as frequently in persons with cancerous tumors as in a comparable group without cancer, a group of researchers from the University of Oregon Medical School reported in the Archives of Dermatology, 92:553, 1965.

The growths resemble those caused by arsenic. Thirteen percent of the cancer patients and ten percent of the control group had had exposure to arsenic in one way or another. Arsenic is known to be a cancer-causing agent, but the researchers cautioned that it should not be assumed that either the palm growths or the patients' tumors were caused by arsenic. They did say, however, that the keratosis should be regarded as a suggestive sign of cancer.

The authors of the report are Jeffery S. Pinto and Drs. Richard L. Dobson and Marvin R. Young, all of the division of dermatology of the University of Oregon Medical School, Portland.

## Drug Aids Stroke Treatment

In recent tests, stroke victims showed greater improvement when they were given massive doses of a drug which dilates blood vessels of the brain.

The drug, papaverine hydrochloride, sometimes used as a muscle relaxant and derived artificially or from opium, was found effective

in increasing both the blood flow and the amount of oxygen carried by blood to the brain. Physicians have searched for a substance which would enlarge the cerebral blood vessels, but which would not dilate peripheral vessels. Clinical trials showed that papaverine does this for extended periods.

Drs. John S. Meyer, Fumio Gotoh, John Gilroy and Nasaharu Nara, all of Wayne State University and Receiving Hospital, Wayne Center for Cerebrovascular Research, and Harper Hospital, Detroit, Mich., reported their study in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 194:957, 1965.

## Risk for Children of Women Cancer Victims

A survey indicates that children of women who die of cancer apparently have a much higher rate of leukemia than would normally be expected.

Dr. George K. Tokuhata of St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital said the study also indicated that daughters of women who died of breast cancer have a significantly higher rate of breast cancer than would be expected.

Dr. Tokuhata, reporting in Medical World News 6:158, 1965, suggested that "an unfavorable intrauterine environment might have existed in the mother" prior to the onset of genital cancer. In regard to the increased leukemia, he cited evidence that some viruses causing leukemia in laboratory animals are transferred from generation to generation through the mother's milk.

• Science News Letter, 88:384 December 11, 1965