

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

For sources of more information on new things described, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington 36, D. C., and ask for Gadget Bulletin 1207. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **BOAT BALANCERS** provide smoother sailing by giving the boat greater planing surface and preventing the boat from porpoising. Metal tabs attached to the back of the boat are connected by a push-pull cable to the control handles and remotely controlled from the driver's position. They can be operated while the boat is in motion and also compensate for motor torque and shifting of loads.

• Science News Letter, 84:80 Aug. 3, 1963

⊗ **NEW GREASE GUN** is operated by one hand only. Made of heavy gauge plated steel, it develops pressures up to 8,000 pounds. It is loaded by cartridge or bulk and is provided with a flexible neoprene hose complete with standard all-purpose coupling and a locking device. Bushing protects against smashed fingers.

• Science News Letter, 84:80 Aug. 3, 1963

⊗ **POWER-DIALING TELESCOPE** for bird watchers, target shooters and long-range game shooting allows fast changing of magnification from 15 times to any power up to 60 times. The new zoom instrument needs only a turn of the knob to adjust to the desired image size. It stays in focus throughout the range. The sturdy 17-inch portable unit can be attached to any camera tripod.

• Science News Letter, 84:80 Aug. 3, 1963



⊗ **FOLDING HIGH CHAIR**, shown in the photograph, is convenient for indoor or outdoor use and where space is limited. The high chair consists of a nylon-coated vinyl hammock seat and back attached to a lightweight tubular steel frame. It folds flat, and can be easily carried or stored. Without its detachable tray, the chair will serve as a baby tender.

• Science News Letter, 84:80 Aug. 3, 1963

⊗ **MAHOGANY-LIKE WALL BOARD** made from Philippine hardwood is ideal for decorative effects or for use in remodeling rooms in the home or office buildings. The inexpensive plywood, which looks like mahogany, is one-fourth of an inch thick and can be applied quickly and easily by the do-it-yourselfer with either adhesive or small nails. The panels come in an assortment of widths.

• Science News Letter, 84:80 Aug. 3, 1963

⊗ **GUTTER DRAIN PROTECTOR** keeps the downspout and drains leading from roof gutters free of leaves and other debris. The protector, installed permanently without tools, is made of curved aluminum webbing shaped to fit the gutter. Straining the water as it passes into the drain, the guard also prevents freezing water from collecting in the gutters and drains in the winter.

• Science News Letter, 84:80 Aug. 3, 1963

⊗ **SEAT BELT DEVICE** automatically kills the engine of car, truck or bus immediately if the driver's seat belt is unfastened. The safety unit can be attached to any seat belt, even those already installed. It is electrically interlocked with the car's ignition system. An optional accessory that attaches to the hand brake permits warming up the engine although the seat belt is unfastened.

• Science News Letter, 84:80 Aug. 3, 1963

• Doctors Are Reading •

Mental Stress Triggers Diabetes

► **MENTAL STRESS** in persons likely to get diabetes can trigger the initial onset of the disease by upsetting the body's metabolism, a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 185:166, 1963, said.

A policeman, among the 25 cases studied, had a four-year history of well-controlled diabetes, which went out of control when he was told that his 15-year-old daughter had leukemia. When it was discovered that the girl had been wrongly diagnosed, his response to the good news was immediate. He was able to return to his former insulin requirement.

Problems of 14 of the 25 included death or separation from a husband or wife, a child, parent or pet, and setbacks in their financial, occupational or social lives. Others were living in emotionally deprived surroundings. Ten could not come to terms with their grief, and seven were depressed.

Drs. Paul F. Slawson, William R. Flynn and Edward J. Kollar of the Neuropsychiatric Institute, University of California at Los Angeles Center for the Health Sciences, reported the study.

Mothers Carry Staph

Babies bring home staphylococcal infections from the hospital, but it is the mothers who are the most frequent carriers in the home, a study of a community of married graduate students reported in JAMA, 185:159, 1963, showed. This is because the mothers handle dishes and linen along with the babies.

The students were living in what the researchers termed an "academic slum," called Westgate. "Staph" infections such as boils, impetigo and carbuncles were reported in 31% of the families with children under two years of age.

One large community self-service laundry was used by all the families, unless unusual "affluence" permitted the students to own their own washing machine. Of 31 using the community laundry, 17% had staph infections in the family, but of 19 not using the community laundry, only 8% showed staph infections.

The researchers pointed out that temperatures of wash water in the community laundry ranged from 120 to 149 degrees Fahrenheit, which is inadequate for disinfection. They concluded that bacteria must have been redistributed rather than destroyed.

Drs. Ruth B. Kundsins and Carl W. Walter, with Miss Mary Day Brubaker of Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, and Dr. Johannes Ipsen of the University of Pennsylvania Medical School, Philadelphia, reported the survey.

Iodine as "Sun Tan" Only Stains

The use of a homemade "sun tan" mixture of iodine and baby oil does not really tan or protect the user from the sun's rays, Dr. John M. Knox, a Houston, Texas, dermatologist, said in the questions and answers section of JAMA, 185:158, 1963.

Dr. Knox, who admitted that he himself had used such a mixture in the late 1940's, said he knew of no ill effects from the practice.

• Science News Letter, 84:80 Aug. 3, 1963