

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☛ **VISIBLE COW MODEL** reveals in detail the internal organs of the cow. Easy to assemble and take apart, one side of the cow's hide is transparent to show the parts of the anatomy. About eight inches high and 14 inches long, the cow measures about three inches across. A descriptive booklet is enclosed with the kit.

• Science News Letter, 86:160 Sept. 5, 1964

☛ **MOTION PICTURE SPLICER** for 16 mm and 8 mm models splices and tapes both sides of the film at the same time. Useful for both color or black and white film, sound or silent, the splicing cut interlocks and maintains the original film rigidity. The splicing tape is dispensed by a roll built into the splicer.

• Science News Letter, 86:160 Sept. 5, 1964

☛ **SMALL TOTE BOX**, 12 x 8 x 1½ inches, is made of polyethylene and is useful for holding small parts. Easy to clean and resistant to acids, solvents and greases, the box will not crack, peel, chip or fracture. Its narrow lip design allows maximum storage capacity for each foot of rack space. Clear snap-in covers are available.

• Science News Letter, 86:160 Sept. 5, 1964

☛ **IMPROVED ELECTRONIC LARYNX**, shown in photograph, enables those who have had their vocal chords surgically re-



moved, to speak more effectively. The head of the device, only an inch in width, is smaller than earlier models and fits snugly against the throat, making it more widely applicable. The electronic larynx can be easily operated with one hand and is available in pitches suitable for female and male voices.

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☛ **BI-FOLD DOOR HARDWARE** simplifies installing folding doors for the homeowner. The pivot and jamb bracket at the bottom of the door are designed so that they support the weight of the door during installation, while a simple push causes the top pivot of the door to snap quickly into its ramp type track socket. Final adjustment can be easily made with the small wrench provided.

• Science News Letter, 86:160 Sept. 5, 1964

☛ **DOUBLE-FACE MIRROR** for grooming gives both ordinary and magnified reflections and has an electric lamp at its base to provide an evenly diffused light. Available in table or travel models and in a variety of colors, both styles contain an electric receptacle for the shaver. The table model has a small compartment for storing shaver or cosmetics while the travel mirror detaches at its base for packing.

• Science News Letter, 86:160 Sept. 5, 1964

☛ **GRAPEFRUIT CORER AND CUTTER** is a two-in-one combination useful in any kitchen. The corer with a disappearing blade and the section cutter are both made of stainless steel with plastic handles. Also useful for other fruits and vegetables, the set comes with complete directions.

• Science News Letter, 86:160 Sept. 5, 1964

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## New Penicillin Test Found Safe

➤ A SKIN TEST that detects penicillin sensitivity simply and causes no serious reaction itself has been developed and looks promising.

The new test was given to 16,239 medical patients. Those who showed no allergy to penicillin did not develop life-threatening reactions when later given the antibiotic. However, the test was not 100% accurate in determining what persons were allergic to penicillin.

Medical researchers who reported the new test said they believe it is the best penicillin sensitivity check at this time, and the most promising for future investigation.

The test is given by injecting into the skin a solution of penicilloyl-polylysine, a compound that does not provoke an allergic reaction. The test is considered positive if the blister that is raised enlarges or if red appears around it. No allergy to penicillin is indicated if the blister does not change.

Dr. Bobby C. Brown, Dr. M. Brittain Moore Jr. and Eleanor V. Price, all of the Communicable Disease Center, U.S. Public Health Service, Atlanta, reported the test in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 189:599, 1964.

## Weather Affects Gland Activity

The adrenal gland, situated at the upper pole of the kidney, is apparently affected by the weather, a Japanese medical researcher has found.

Dr. Gen-Ichi Watanabe, University of Niigata School of Medi-

cine, Niigata, Japan, who conducted a study of both men and women in Niigata City, said the adrenal gland cortex seemed more active in winter than at any other time. It appeared least active during fall and spring.

Dr. Watanabe said this makes it reasonable to assume that seasonal changes occur in the body although there is not enough evidence now to prove this. In a place of sudden temperature changes, like Niigata City where the study was made, climatic stress may activate the adrenal cortex, he said.

Dr. Watanabe reported his study in the *Archives of Environmental Health*, 9:192, 1964.

## Drugs Aid Eyes in Old Age

Four drugs can improve sharpness of sight, which usually wanes with age, a study indicates.

The study, which took 13 years to complete, was made on elderly hospital patients who had a variety of eye disorders. The drugs used were nicotine acid, Roniacol, Priscoline and Arlidin.

Dr. H. Wyatt Laws, ophthalmologist-in-chief of Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Montreal, said Arlidin, available only with a physician's prescription, was the most effective of the drugs.

Of 203 patients examined, the eyesight of 87% either improved or remained the same with the treatment. Elderly patients with eye ailments who did not want the treatment showed continued eye failure.

Dr. Laws reported his findings in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 91:325, 1964.

• Science News Letter, 86:160 Sept. 5, 1964