

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **MAGNETIC SOAP CADDY** for bathroom or kitchen suspends the soap in the air eliminating the waste resulting from wet soap in a soap dish. The magnetic caddy is mounted by means of pressure-sensitive adhesive on any clean wall and holds the soap by a metal insert placed into the end of the bar of soap. The soap is held dry and secure until ready for use.

• Science News Letter, 86:240 October 10, 1964

⚙️ **AEROSOL SPRAY LUBRICANTS**, one "dry" and one "wet," are blends of molybdenum disulfide that provide long-wearing, semipermanent lubricant films. The dry spray contains no moisture or oil base and is suitable for lubricating all types of machinery operating in dusty and dirty conditions. The wet spray is a mixture of molybdenum disulfide and oil and is a penetrating, lasting all-purpose lubricant that is self-cleaning and suitable for chains, gears and sliding parts.

• Science News Letter, 86:240 October 10, 1964

⚙️ **PERMANENT WHITE MARKER** that can be used on metal, wood, cloth, leather, plastic, glass or paper is suitable for marking athletic equipment, school or camp clothing, jar labels, cans and other household items. Consisting of a bottle of opaque white ink with felt-tipped point attached, the marker writes smoothly and evenly. The ink is waterproof and quick drying.

• Science News Letter, 86:240 October 10, 1964



⚙️ **TELEPHONE BOOK HOLDER**, shown in photograph, that keeps telephone directories neat and handy has room for two thick metropolitan directories or a number of smaller ones. Made of sturdy reinforced fiberboard, it is bound in brown simulated leather. Suitable for use either vertically or horizontally, on desk, shelf or in drawer, its open back allows instant selection of the desired directory.

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⚙️ **PORTABLE PHOTOELECTRIC COLORIMETER** is a direct-reading instrument suitable for field or laboratory work. Useful for convenient, rapid and accurate measuring of the concentration of solutions, it can be used for colorimetric and spectrophotometric testing in industrial, chemical and biochemical fields. Power is furnished by two replaceable mercury batteries, making it independent of outside power sources.

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⚙️ **MECHANICAL MONEY HANDLER** the size of a cigarette packet is especially helpful for handling coins when hands are gloved or fingers are cold and stiff. Storing pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and even tokens, the device ejects the desired coins at a flick of a button directly into the hand. The money handler includes an extra-coin compartment and an open-sided wallet that makes bills easy to insert or withdraw.

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⚙️ **POWER VACUUM SWEEPER** for homeowners cleans up leaves and debris from the garden, crushing and compacting them in an 8½-cubic-foot bag. Suitable for year-round use in the yard, it also has a hose attachment for vacuuming furnaces, garages, workshops and outdoor areas. Its heavy duty chrome-plated tubular handles are easily removed for storage.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Large Red Blood Cells Indicate Disorders

► **LEUKEMIA**, anemia and cirrhosis are among the disorders that can be diagnosed if persons are found to have abnormally large red cells in their blood streams, reports a California physician.

In a study of 120 patients who had this abnormal blood condition, 88 were discovered to have one or more diseases associated with large red blood cells. In the remaining 32, no disorder commonly associated with large red blood cells could be detected, although many of these patients were ill.

Dr. Paul G. Hattersley, Sacramento, Calif., reported this study in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 189:997, 1964.

Small Role of Drugs in Suicide

No specific drugs are capable of inducing depression or suicide in the mentally ill as thought by some researchers, a study indicates.

The cases of 80 schizophrenic patients, 40 who had committed suicide between 1955 and 1960 and 40 who were considered nonsuicidal, were compared. Both groups had similar backgrounds and had taken various tranquilizing drugs.

The only effect of drugs toward suicide and depression appeared to be indirect. In some cases, for example, the drugs masked the suicide urge. Attendants, thinking the patient was better, would give him the freedom he needed to kill himself.

Dr. Sidney Cohen, Dr. Norman L. Farberow, Dr. Edwin S.

Shneidman and Calista V. Leonard, all from the Veterans Administration Center, Los Angeles, Calif., reported the study in *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 11:312, 1964.

Compound Against German Measles

A compound reported to be active against influenza viruses may prove effective against rubella, or German measles. Rubella is known to cause deformities in babies born to mothers who contract the disease in the first three months of pregnancy.

The compound, amantadine hydrochloride, inhibited the growth of rubella virus in cultures of monkey kidney cells, Drs. Hunein F. Maassab and Kenneth W. Cochran, both of the School of Public Health, University of Michigan, have found. The antiviral activity appeared at an early phase of the infection, they said. Their findings were reported in *Science*, 145:1443, 1964.

Weak Bacteria Stops Infection

Staph infections might be prevented now in hospitals and households with the discovery that a weak strain of the bacteria that causes these infections can be used to inoculate against them.

The bacterium, *Staphylococcus aureus*, causes boils and abscesses. Drs. Marvin Boris, John C. Ribble, Henry R. Shinefield, New York, Thomas F. Sellers Jr., Atlanta, and Heinz F. Eichenwald, Dallas, reported this finding in the *American Journal of Diseases of Children*, 108:522, 1964.

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