

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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• **COLOR CODED DESK THERMOMETER** for home or office, changes color according to the temperature. A blue zone denotes the cool range from 20 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit, green is for the comfort zone of 50 to 68 degrees and red is the hot zone, 68 to 120 degrees. Readings can be made in both centigrade and Fahrenheit. Designed to be read horizontally the thermometer comes in a luggage-type case.

• Science News Letter, 86:256 October 17, 1964

• **COOLING SYSTEM TESTER** to determine the cause of inadequate heating or overheating of cars, checks the water pump and thermostat in 10 to 15 minutes without the necessity of removing either unit from the car. Suitable for checking systems on automobiles, light and medium trucks, the tester is installed into the cooling system by removing the top hose. Adapter sleeves allow usage in all cars.

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• **AUTO EMERGENCY KIT** enclosed in a convenient compact case, is useful to travelers or campers and is designed to cover most road problems. The kit includes a fire extinguisher, windshield deicer, red warning blinker, instant flat tire repair cylinder, first aid kit and manual, flashlight and an SOS flag to signal danger, products most essential for highway emergency.

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• **ELECTRIC HAIR BRUSH**, shown in photograph, that becomes a body massager when turned over, gently vibrates as the hair is brushed. Powered by a quiet electric motor that never needs oiling, the shock-resistant brush has round-tipped, easily cleaned bristles. Suitable for both traveling and home use, the dual-purpose brush has a convenient on-off switch and an extra long cord.

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• **NEW ICE AUGER** for the ice fisherman makes chopping holes in the ice easier. Designed with angled straight edges, the blades of the cutting arc dig into the ice as they cut. The design makes it possible for the ice fisherman to hone the auger edge himself. Available in two models, six- and eight-inch, the shaft has a rugged steel hinge at the center that makes the auger fit in smaller spaces and easier to carry.

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• **FOOT AIR PUMP** lessens the work of inflating tires of antique automobiles. The pump, manipulated by the foot, includes a three-inch cylinder that has a 5½-inch stroke. Large volumes of air are delivered with each step by the one-piece cylinder that cannot leak air. The device is also useful for maintaining air pressure in the water system of trailers. It closes compactly for storage.

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• **BOAT GLOVE COMPARTMENT** attaches to the underside of the dashboard or seat of a boat and nestles out of the way when not in use. To use, the compartment is unlatched and swings down and out making the contents readily available. Particularly suited to sailboats, the plastic and aluminum compartment can be installed in several minutes.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Speech Made Possible by 'Hearing' Device

► A PREVIOUSLY deaf person whose ability to speak had been affected by "acquired perception deafness," can now repeat phrases after "hearing" due to an operation that buries a coil substitute for an essential organ in the ear.

The operation was done in Los Angeles and is reported in the Archives of Otolaryngology, Oct. 1964.

The patient whose speech was helped by the operation, had acquired "perceptive," or "nerve" deafness and intelligible speech had been lost, as happens in a few months after a person acquires deafness.

More work needs to be done on the coil before it can be successfully marketed, but for persons with extreme nerve deafness, it can help "hearing" through intense vibrations, and consequently can make speech possible.

Dr. John B. Doyle Jr., neurosurgeon at the School of Medicine, University of California, Los Angeles, with his brother, James H. Doyle, an engineer, began work on an artificial organ of Corti in 1960 and reported initial success at the American Medical Association's clinical convention in Los Angeles in 1962.

Assisting with the report was Dr. Frederick Myles Turnbull Jr., also of Los Angeles.

Pneumatic Drill Causes Numb Fingers

The violent mechanical vibration of pneumatic drills used by Canadian miners who work in cold, wet conditions is blamed

for giving them a disabling numbness of the fingers called Raynaud's disease.

Replacement of currently used drills with a type that does not have to be held in the hand has been suggested and is being investigated. Miners also can be trained now to 'ride' the drill and not to hold it more than is necessary for efficiency and safety.

Reporting the study in the Archives of Environmental Health, Oct. 1964, were Drs. William F. Ashe, Columbus, Ohio, and N. Williams, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Dr. Ashe observed three medical students without mining experience under experimental conditions at University Hospital in Columbus.

Alcoholic Gets Drunk on Water

A hospitalized woman alcoholic whose liquor was taken away started drinking vast quantities of water, including that in the flower vases in her ward. Results were symptoms similar to intoxication.

Another woman, hospitalized for drug addiction, and with a past history of alcoholism, also became a compulsive water drinker, even drinking the contents of her hot-water bottle one night.

Dr. T. H. Bewley, consultant psychiatrist at Tooting Bec Hospital, London, reported these cases in the British Medical Journal, Oct. 3, 1964. Water intoxication is not uncommon, he said, but it usually occurs after an operation when for some reason an excessive amount of fluid may be given by injection.

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