

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1281 for sources of new things described. Send a self-addressed envelope to SCIENCE SERVICE, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. To receive this Gadget Bulletin without special request each week, remit \$1.50 for one year's subscription.

⊗ **CRANKCASE PUMP** to drain the in-board motor crankcase of a boat is inexpensive and easy to handle. To use, the pump's one-fourth-inch diameter tube is inserted through the dipstick hole and the oil pumped into a convenient container. Other applications of the pump include drying bilges, filling small tanks and transferring fuel. It can also be used to pump air and inflate or deflate air mattresses.

• Science News Letter, 87:16 January 2, 1965

⊗ **ALL-PURPOSE SHOCKLESS TONGS**, made of nylon, are heat resistant, extremely strong and have insulating qualities that effectively shield the user up to 250 volts. Useful to automotive, aircraft, television and other service personnel, they are pocket-size and can handle any fuse from three-sixteenth to one inch in size. The versatile tongs can also be used as ice tongs or to turn steaks on the barbecue.

• Science News Letter, 87:16 January 2, 1965

⊗ **SPORTSMAN'S SPOTLIGHT** for fishermen, boat-owners or motorists can be used underwater to attract fish at night. The four-inch sealed beam light, which is cushioned in a soft rubber case to withstand knocks and bumps, is also waterproof and rustproof. Provided with interchangeable connections for car lighter sockets or for boat or auto batteries, it provides light of 40,000 candlepower.

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⊗ **PREPAINT CONDITIONER**, shown in photograph, for home and industry, makes all types of metal surfaces ready for painting immediately. The liquid conditioner, which can be brushed, rolled or wiped on, in addition to providing a grip for all types of paint including latexes, alkyds and enamels, cleans the surface, provides a protective coating and acts as a corrosion inhibitor. It is insoluble in both water and commercial solvents.

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⊗ **AUTO TISSUE DISPENSER** made of polypropylene plastic keeps tissues within safe reach of automobile drivers. The dispenser, available in several colors, is provided with a flexible, weighted foam rubber base and will stay securely on the car seat, or on the transmission tunnel on the car floor. Its hinged flip top opens readily and closes automatically, keeping tissues clean.

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⊗ **ELECTRONIC AMPLIFIER** eliminates the need to hold the telephone while waiting for an answer to a call, leaving hands free to write or handle papers. When the party is ready, his voice will come loud and clear over the amplifier. No installation is required for the transistorized magnetic pick-up which is simply hung on the telephone. The 4x4x2¼-inch unit operates on a nine-volt battery.

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⊗ **TRIANGULAR TRAYS** for serving at the bridge table provide maximum dining area for four persons. The four trays in the set nest up against each other covering the entire surface area, thus preventing spilling and spotting on the table. Lightweight and washable, the trays, molded of glass fiber, are available in two designs, fleur de lis and black and red card suit. They are useful also for dining buffet-style.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Fat People Fast to Fight Disease

➤ **OVERWEIGHT PATIENTS** are going without eating to combat diabetes and high blood pressure—while they lose weight.

The great reduction in weight brought about by intermittent total fasting has also helped in the control of asthma and psoriasis in hospitalized patients, Dr. G. C. Duncan, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Philadelphia, reported. Results have been so successful in the treatment of obesity that doctors are now considering all aspects of this therapeutic measure.

The total fast method cannot be used, however, when a patient is pregnant or has an infectious disease, or in patients with certain diseases of the heart or liver, said Dr. Duncan, who reported his findings at the Conference on Adipose Tissue Metabolism and Obesity sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences.

German Measles Virus Recovered

Recovery of German measles virus for the first time from three malformed infants whose mothers had had the disease early in pregnancy is expected to give scientists new knowledge in these two research areas:

1. The manner in which the virus, rubella virus, produces damage in developing human embryos.
2. The way in which the virus may survive between epidemics in the population.

Reporting in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 271:1275,

1964, three Harvard School of Public Health scientists said that the virus was recovered from the throats of the babies. The scientists, Drs. Charles A. Alford Jr., Franklin A. Neva and Thomas H. Weller, continued recovery of the virus for several weeks following the birth of the infants, each of whom showed evidence of impaired development and of heart or eye damage.

Bosses Often Snub Neck Breathers

Neck breathers, persons whose larynx or voice box has been removed, are not always getting a fair shake for reemployment.

Lack of information about the neck breather's speech ability, health and working capacity often prevents suitable reemployment after the operation, Dr. Warren H. Gardner, Cleveland, said in the *American Medical Association's Archives of Environmental Health* (December).

A survey of 115 neck breathers in the Cleveland area showed that 28% changed or lost their jobs after the operation. All who changed jobs got less pay than they received before the operation. Sixty-seven percent of the 82 persons who returned to their old jobs received a pay cut.

About 4,000 persons undergo laryngectomy each year in the U.S., Dr. Gardner said. There are more than 15,000 laryngectomees in this country. The patient can generally be taught to speak by swallowing air taken in through the mouth and then forcing the compressed air back into the mouth to form sounds.

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