

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **RADIOACTIVITY DEMONSTRATOR** contains all the components necessary for classroom demonstration, eliminating storage problems. The unit includes a removable module built into the back that holds an entire laboratory of radioactivity experimental equipment with a complete set of absorbers and scatterers as well as two radioactive sources. A 200-page experiment manual accompanies the instrument.

• Science News Letter, 87:48 January 16, 1965

⊗ **SURF SKIMMING BOARDS**, suitable for those who wish to skim the smaller waves found onshore on many beaches, are made of one-half inch marine plywood finished in marine enamel. Available in sizes for both children and adults, they are lighter than the usual boards used by experts. One model is equipped with runners to act as rudders for small skimmers and another may be converted for sliding on snow slopes.

• Science News Letter, 87:48 January 16, 1965

⊗ **AUTOMATIC CIGARETTE LIGHTER** that lights up with a wave of the hand uses no flint, wick, gas or battery and has no moving parts. The lighter, which uses a special odorless fluid, ignites when its cap is removed, producing a clear, blue flame with no smoke or soot. The cap is replaced to extinguish the flame. The table model, made of decorative imported ceramic china, comes with fluid and instructions.

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⊗ **CHILD'S SEAT BELT**, shown in photograph, for the one-to-five-year-old, still allows movement and activity within a limited area while securing the child. The belt, made in two sizes to accommodate different body structures and weights, is easily put into place by means of eyebolt type of installation. Made of washable nylon, the belt is stitched rather than riveted with metal, which may hurt the child.

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⊗ **TOOTHPASTE DISPENSER** that helps keep the toothpaste neat and handy is easy for even small children to use. The dispenser, which accommodates all sizes of toothpaste tubes, is mounted on wall, cabinet or stand with pressure sensitive tape. To use, the tube is placed flat in the device under a sliding compressor unit that squeezes out the toothpaste from the uncapped tube whenever pressure is applied to the attached lever.

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⊗ **FLY TYING KITS**, to make attractive lures for enticing hungry fish, will please young boys and even adults who like to fish and tie their own flies. The kits, which include instructions, contain necessities for this hobby, such as nylon thread, cement, hooks, fancy feathers, yarn, silk floss and tinsel. Several dozen flies can be made with the average kit.

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⊗ **SCREW-IN FLOODLIGHT ADAPTER** makes possible the illumination of yards, picnic areas, driveways and patios as soon as the sun goes down. Easy to install, the photoelectric adapter is simply screwed into any existing 120-volt household socket. The floodlight bulb is then inserted into it as into any other socket. The light now photoelectrically controlled will automatically provide light as soon as dusk descends.

• Science News Letter, 87:48 January 16, 1965

• Doctors Are Reading •

Teens Attempting Suicide Want to Live

► **MOST TEEN-AGERS** who attempt suicide do not actually intend to die, a doctor reported.

In a recent study of unsuccessful suicide tries in teen-agers using chemicals, it was found that 75% of the attempts were made by girls, although successful suicides were more common among boys. In most cases studied the attempts were impulsive acts, reported Dr. Harold Jacobziner, New York. The acts were meant as a warning to parents or loved ones, as an expression of dissatisfaction or displeasure, not as an actual intent to die.

Dr. Jacobziner's study is based on 597 confirmed suicide tries reported to the New York City Poison Control Center during 1960-61.

The major reasons for the suicide attempts listed were quarrels with parents, relatives, lover and friends, depression, school difficulties and being "nervous and upset." In addition, there was a high incidence of family disorganization, such as living in broken homes.

Aspirin was used in 35% of the attempts, while barbiturates ranked second with 33%. More than 39% of the cases were classified as moderate in severity, while 22% were rated as severe.

Suicide ranks fourth as a cause of death in the 15 to 19 year-old age group and takes more lives in that group each year than

tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, or diphtheria, to name a few. Dr. Jacobziner reported his findings in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 191:7, 1965.

Four Types of Drinkers

Drinkers have now been divided into four categories depending upon how and why and where they do their drinking. One of these categories has a useful social function and three do not.

A Rutgers sociologist, Dr. Harold Fallding, finds that trying to put people into "wet" or "dry" categories is useless. He suggests that drinking is not intrinsically either harmful or beneficial, "but becomes one or the other in relation to the social conditions within the community in which the drinking occurs."

The socially useful slot is social drinking, relaxed and among good friends. The second slot is "facilitation drinking" to ease the drinker's integration into a group. The third is called "assuagement drinking" practiced by a person who has no sense of belonging and has abandoned himself to liquor to fill the void. The fourth is "retaliation" drinking or habitual intoxication to make the individual a burden.

The study was reported in the Quarterly Journal of Studies on Alcohol, Winter Edition, 1964.

• Science News Letter, 87:48 January 16, 1965