

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☼ **CLEAR VINYL SPRAY** useful to maintenance personnel, mechanics, pipe fitters and homeowners, protects or seals metal, wood, glass, concrete and other surfaces that do not react to its solvent from wear, rust, corrosion and weather. When applied to a clean, dry surface, the spray forms a strong and durable resistant plastic film. The quick drying spray is also useful for coating electrical circuitry and equipment.

• Science News Letter, 87:144 February 27, 1965

☼ **FIREPLACE COOKING GRILLE** makes possible mid-winter barbecues. The charcoal grille, finished in heat resistant black enamel, is 11½ inches high, 22 inches wide and 17 inches deep and can be used in any standard fireplace. Its cooking surface can be raised or lowered by means of a crank to control cooking heat. The grid bars are arranged, running front to back for convenience in turning the food. Suitable for outdoor use also, it folds for carrying.

• Science News Letter, 87:144 February 27, 1965

☼ **AIR DRYER** for closets helps keep closets dry and fresh in winter and summer. The 24-inch air dryer is safe to use and requires no special installation. It is simply plugged into a standard household outlet and placed in the closet. It circulates the closet air and keeps it dry, preventing mildew from forming.

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☼ **STAINLESS STEEL PLIERS**, shown in photograph, are rustproof, corrosion resistant stainless steel pliers that are tempered for rugged service. The jaws of the pliers are serrated to interlock fully, enabling the thinnest object to be held securely. Useful for boat owners, fishermen, hunters, gardeners, mechanics and handymen, the pliers do not bind, stiffen or freeze. They come with a leather-like cloth wallet-belt holster.

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☼ **TELEPHONE INDEX** that can be placed right under the telephone permits instant choice of any one of up to 600 numbers with a touch of a button. Made of plastic, the unit measures 11x5¾ inches and contains removable 5x7-inch alphabet cards. To operate, a selector key is lightly pressed and the drawer opens to reveal the desired number.

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☼ **PORTABLE DRAWING BOARD**, convenient for draftsmen, architects or engineers traveling by train or plane, allows last minute on-the-spot changes to be made on drawings if necessary. The board, 9¾ x 12¼ inches in size, is made of translucent plastic and comes with two triangles. Weighing only eight ounces, it will fit in a brief case. Spring grips hold the paper firmly on the board.

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☼ **MAILBOX** for country or suburban home is unusual in design and construction, combining a large rural-type mailbox with a king-sized newspaper chute located just below the box. The combination, mounted on a long, steel post is encased in a cast aluminum floral design that holds it securely through all types of weather. Two feet of the post extend into the ground. All parts come ready for assembly and installation.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Girl Survives Radical Intestinal Surgery

► A 22-YEAR-OLD GIRL in Melbourne, Australia, has made medical history by surviving an operation that left her with a nine-inch small intestine when she was 14 years of age.

The young woman, whose case is reported in the *British Medical Journal*, Feb. 13, 1965, is now working as a typist, is attractive and fashionably dressed and is on a normal diet with an intake of 3,600 calories a day.

No report of such long-term survival with so little small intestine has been encountered in medical literature, Dr. Charlotte M. Anderson of the Royal Children's Hospital Research Foundation, Melbourne, said.

The girl's small intestine had been twisted and gangrenous and her early years of recovery were marked by frequent returns to the hospital.

"If this case has taught us anything," Dr. Anderson said, "it is probably that prompt and continuing attention to the intake of electrolytes such as calcium, potassium and magnesium, is a most important factor in ensuring survival."

Vitamin B-12 therapy was also given early. Whether the drug chlorpromazine played a real part in improving the girl's general condition in the early stages is not known.

"Its administration certainly coincided with gradual and persistent improvement from what looked like a hopeless condition,"

Dr. Anderson said. "It was given to lessen misery. It certainly changed her mood and improved her appetite. Whether it had any other effect is open to conjecture. Extra magnesium was not given until the improvement was well under way."

Infants and young people seem to adapt much better to extensive losses of the small intestine than old people with cancer or degenerative diseases, Dr. Anderson stated. This girl was severely ill with shock, circulatory failure and dehydration at the time of operation, however.

Epilepsy Drug Used

A drug used in the treatment of epilepsy has been successful in treating heart beat irregularity.

Dr. Robert D. Conn of the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, said in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 272:271, 1965, that the epilepsy drug, Dilantin, or diphenylhydantoin, often given in pill form, was injected intravenously into 24 patients with a variety of cardiac arrhythmias. It was particularly effective in treating irregular heart beat due to digitalis excess.

The time-honored drug treatments for irregular heart beat are digitalis, quinidine and procainamide. Patients may react against all of them because of their toxic properties. For this reason, Dr. Conn pointed out, the epilepsy drug appears to be a significant addition to the drug therapy of heart beat irregularity.

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