

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

Ask for Gadget Bulletin 1297 for source information. Send self-addressed, stamped 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.

⚙️ **VARIABLE PITCH PROPELLER** for outboard motors can be adjusted to the pitch or blade angle that gives the best performance for each load or boating activity. By turning a dial, the propellers, suitable for most 15- to 90-horsepower motors, can be adjusted to pull an extra skier, increase speed when loaded or cut trolling speed in half. Worn or damaged blades can be replaced using only a screw-driver.

• Science News Letter, 87:272 April 24, 1965

⚙️ **TOOTHBRUSH RACK** keeps toothbrushes neat and free from dust. The easy-to-clean unit, made of high-impact plastic, has a tightly fitting flip cover and grooves for seven brushes as well as a shelf for toothpaste. Mounted with self-stick adhesive, it can be placed anywhere on the wall and low enough for children to reach.

• Science News Letter, 87:272 April 24, 1965

⚙️ **TREE PRUNING KIT** allows the homeowner to prune trees from the ground. The pruner, made of heavy-duty, reinforced malleable iron, is designed for attachment to a long pole. Made with an easy action pulley and a compression coil spring, the blade will cut branches up to one-inch in diameter. A 12½-foot operating rope included will guide the pruner on any pole up to 12 feet long.

• Science News Letter, 87:272 April 24, 1965



⚙️ **LABORATORY GLASSWARE KITS**, shown in photograph, for teachers and students are designed for elementary chemistry classes as well as graduate research laboratories. The kits provide 34 standard set-ups and many variations. All components are Pyrex, offering balanced thermal, mechanical and chemical strength and resistance to freezing. The kits are packed in self-storing boxes that fit easily into drawers. Eight different kits are available.

• Science News Letter, 87:272 April 24, 1965

⚙️ **SNOW DRIVING DEVICE** installed on the rear wheels of a car is helpful when driving on snow, mud or sand. Easily installed, the triangular-shaped device hangs on the bearing for normal driving, acting like a pendulum. When traction is needed, or snow is forecast, the locknut is tightened causing the weight to turn with the wheel. To stop traction the locknut is loosened with a one-fourth turn.

• Science News Letter, 87:272 April 24, 1965

⚙️ **NEW ELECTRIC TIMER** for plant and laboratory operations that require timing, such as baths, ovens, shakers, gas and liquid flow, is made with a heavy-duty aluminum housing. Only 3½x5x4 inches in size, the timer fits into small spaces. The high-torque motor has a built-in electric brake which provides instantaneous stops without overshooting. An accessory foot switch is also available.

• Science News Letter, 87:272 April 24, 1965

⚙️ **SUEDE CLEANER** erases dirt from pigskin and low nap suede shoes quickly and easily. The cleaner, which consists of a white powder enclosed in a small cloth bag, is rubbed over the soiled spots. The residue is then brushed off with a sponge included in the package. The handy cleaner is also useful for canvas shoes, handbags, felt hats and belts.

• Science News Letter, 87:272 April 24, 1965

• Doctors Are Reading •

Skin Cancer Hereditary?

➤ A FORM OF skin cancer called malignant melanoma could run in families.

A study by Dr. Roger W. Turkington of Duke Hospital and Durham Veterans Administration Hospital, Durham, N.C., revealed the disease in families of 15 patients with melanoma.

Moles or darkly pigmented spots on the skin, called nevi, are believed to be the cause of virtually all melanomas. Although the majority of these dark masses are harmless, the report said, there is indisputable evidence that succeeding generations have them.

Five of the 15 patients studied were from families with three or more cases of melanoma in recent generations, Dr. Turkington said, explaining that the probability of this is very small unless inheritance factors are considered.

Details of the study are reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 192:77, 1965.

Medical Students Contract TB

High risk of tuberculosis at a northeastern medical center was shown by a study reported in Boston.

Tuberculosis has been a common disease among students and graduates of medicine since the earliest days of medical practice, and in the early 1930s was considered an occupational hazard. The fact that 27 cases of TB appeared in a modern medical school is a reminder of the potential hazard of this disease among medical personnel.

Autopsies on patients not known to have had tuberculosis before death were possible sources of infection among the 27 persons infected recently. Drs. Morton E. Alpert and Matthew E. Levison, epidemic intelligence service officers of the Communicable Disease Center, assigned to the New York State Department of Health, Albany, reported the cases in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, 272:718, 1965. The researchers declined to further identify the institution.

Premarital Pregnancy More Common in Young

As young people continue to marry at earlier and earlier ages, premarital pregnancy is likely to continue rising.

Premarital pregnancy, most common before young marriages where the wife is under 18, drops sharply as the wife's age at marriage rises, reported J. R. Rele of the international population and urban research department at the University of California, Berkeley.

"This helps to explain the rise in premarital conception accompanying the decline in the age at marriage after 1940," he said.

Mr. Rele added that women marrying early characteristically have less education, and "the pattern of continuing education after marriage does not seem to be prevalent among American women."

Early marriages statistically have less chances of survival from "the hazards of divorce or separation," he noted in *Eugenics Quarterly*, 12:1, 1965.

• Science News Letter, 87:272 April 24, 1965