

• New Ideas and Gadgets •

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• **EYEGLASS IDENTIFICATION** is permanently marked on the eyeglasses by engraving on the inside of the metal or plastic earpieces, or temple. The full name and address or name and telephone number can be engraved. Plastic engravings are filled with a contrasting color.

• Science News Letter, 83:48 January 19, 1963

• **ALGAE AND SLIME BIOCIDE** for cooling water systems controls formation of these in water cooling towers. Non-corrosive to steel, brass, copper or aluminum, the product is a combination of potassium salts of polychlorophenols, surfactants and dispersing and solubilizing agents. Periodic treatment prevents algae and slime conditions from returning.

• Science News Letter, 83:48 January 19, 1963

• **BATTERY-BOOSTER CHARGER** for slow charging of batteries insures reliable battery operation at all times and prolongs battery life. The charger, which can be installed permanently under the car hood or used portably, is operated by connecting to the household current by means of an extension cord. Protected against weather, moisture and vibration, it is also suitable for power boat use.

• Science News Letter, 83:48 January 19, 1963

• **NEW KEYLESS LOCK**, shown in the photograph, is suitable for persons who



travel or live alone and can be attached quickly without tools to any hinged door with a latch. The Totalock is packaged in a plastic case and can be carried in the pocket or purse. It is composed of two small, nickel-plated flat steel pieces that fit together to form a powerful lock.

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• **FOAM THICKNESS GAUGE** checks the thickness of foam sheet materials and other compressible fabrics up to one-half inch thick with an accuracy of .001 inch. Usable on the production line, the gauge is placed on top of a sheet of foam and the depth of the penetration of its three needle point legs is measured and recorded on an attached dial.

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• **MICROMINIATURE WELDING UNIT** produces a hydrogen flame, 6,000 degrees Fahrenheit, without deposits ordinarily found in petrocarbon based gases. The flame, about 20/1000ths of an inch in diameter and 3/8ths of an inch long, can be precisely pin-pointed to the exact spot where the heat is needed. The unit is especially suitable for use on small missile instruments, electronic parts, jewelry, ceramics and dental laboratory work.

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• **TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNS** made of laminated plastic are color permanent and legible despite exposure to weather and atmospheric conditions contributing to traffic safety. Available in colors and sizes that conform to highway and street safety code requirements, the signs need little upkeep. They can be back-lighted with incandescent or fluorescent lighting.

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• Doctors Are Reading •

Warm Blood for Transfusions

► SOMETHING NEW is being added to blood transfusion equipment to provide warm blood during operations requiring large amounts of quickly transfused blood. A device can now be attached to cold blood bottles that brings the blood to near-body temperature.

Drs. C. Paul Boyan and William S. Howland of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, New York, reported in the current *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 183:58, 1963, that warmed blood markedly reduces the danger of heart arrest.

In findings that compared the use of cold and warm blood among two groups of patients undergoing radical surgery for cancer, these anesthesiologists reported only one heart arrest among 45 patients who got warmed blood, whereas there were 21 heart arrests among 36 patients in the cold blood group.

Keep Canned Goods Cool

Grandma was right in storing her canned goods in the cellar. Even the modern tinned foods should be kept in a cool place to avoid loss of thiamine and vitamin C, Dr. Philip L. White reported to *Today's Health*, 41:14, 1963.

Dr. White, who is secretary of the AMA Council on Foods and Nutrition, said some vitamins are more stable than others. Riboflavin is not affected by ordinary storage temperatures and carotene is quite stable in canned fruits and vegetables, especially in tomato juice.

All canned foods should be stored in a cool place, Dr. White said, pointing out that the thiamine in canned meats may be re-

duced by as much as 30 per cent in only six months when stored at 70-degree Fahrenheit temperature. Canned vegetables stored at 65 degrees lose up to 15 per cent of their thiamine in a year, and when stored at 80 degrees the loss rises to 25 per cent. These figures are based on reports from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Wound Healing Hastened

Wound healing has been hastened in rats by use of cartilage solution injected into the blood stream, three doctors at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, reported in the *Archives of Surgery*, Jan. 1963.

Cartilage, which is a gristle type of connective tissue attached to bones, was obtained from the windpipes of cattle. Drs. John F. Prudden and Othmar Gabriel, with Bruce Allen, who reported the findings, believe their preliminary animal experiments may lead to clinical, or human, application.

Smallpox Immunity

Although there may be 100 million smallpox-vaccinated persons in the U.S., 70 per cent may have lost immunity, the leading editorial of the *JAMA*, 183:54, 1963, points out, advising vaccination for all physicians and their patients who have not been immunized in the past five years.

The AMA House of Delegates made this recommendation, urging state and local medical societies to join in a long-range program to boost the national level of immunity against smallpox.

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