

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⚙️ **TINKER ZOO** consists of flexible, perforated plastic shapes and sturdy wooden pegs from which children can construct animals and insects, realistic or imaginary, to suit their fancy. Molded of tough plastic, the colored plastic shapes can be bent and curved and are easily fitted to the wooden pegs.

• Science News Letter, 83:176 March 16, 1963

⚙️ **PET SIGNAL MAT**, 12 by 18 inches in size, keeps tabs on pets or unwanted animals at the door or pet entryway. When the mat is stepped on, chimes sound from the automatic signal unit that can be plugged into the regular household outlet and mounted on the wall. A large man-size mat is available for shop or office.

• Science News Letter, 83:176 March 16, 1963

⚙️ **NOISELESS PLACE MATS** are backed with urethane foam that absorbs sound and reduces the clatter of dishes and tableware. Mats in oblong or oval shapes are made from vinyl-coated burlap in a variety of colors and can be wiped clean. Heat resistant and unaffected by liquids, the mats will not slip or hurt the finest wood surfaces.

• Science News Letter, 83:176 March 16, 1963

⚙️ **SEAT BELT REMINDER**, shown in the photograph, helps assure maximum



driving safety by making it impossible to start a car until the seat belt is fastened securely by the driver. When the seat belt is tightened, the pressure trips a safety mechanism unlocking the car's starter. Easily installed, it will not interfere with the operation of the car.

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⚙️ **IMPORTED FLOWER LAMP** can serve as a night light, TV lamp, center display or buffet light. Each of the three realistic plastic roses, in red, pink and yellow, has a small light in its center that gives a soft glow. Mounted on a natural bark base eight and one-half inches long, the flowers have flexible stems and can be arranged to suit the setting.

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⚙️ **FINISHING WHEEL** for metal surfaces is reinforced with a unifying polymer which shortens the finishing process by eliminating the need for frequent clean-ups necessary with buff-compound methods. Because the wheel is rugged and long-wearing, certain manual finishing operations can be automated. The wheels are available in six diameters and can be used with various types of grinding equipment.

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⚙️ **SOCKET PULLER** removes worn grip neck caster sockets from all types of wood furniture legs without forcing. The extractor, made of hardened steel, is inserted into the socket and cuts its own threads in the old socket with a turn of the wrist. A hand wheel attachment is then turned and the socket is easily pulled out without damaging the chair legs.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Abnormal Blood Vessels With Peptic Ulcer

➤ A PERSON with abnormal blood vessels is likely to get a peptic ulcer, a report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, 183:725, 1963, says.

Ulcers are generally believed to be caused by an over-secretion of stomach juices as a result of nervous and hormonal factors. But impairment of circulation, apparently related to abnormal blood vessels in other parts of the body, make the stomach and duodenum vulnerable to the corrosive action of the digestive juices.

Four State University of Iowa researchers reported a study of 427 University Hospital patients who had tiny abnormal formations of the blood vessels inside the lips or under the tongue. Of the 427, 101 had an ulcer or a history of ulcer.

Dr. John A. Gius, with Don E. Boyle, Donald D. Castle and Ralph H. Congdon, all of the department of surgery, State University of Iowa College of Medicine, reported the study. They pointed out that the theory had first been advanced 100 years ago.

## Sleeplessness and Drugs

Large doses of drugs taken habitually for sleeplessness can cause symptoms like those of chronic alcoholism, Dr. Edward F. Domino of Ann Arbor, Mich., said in the questions and answers section of JAMA, 183:816, 1963. Prescribed doses of such drugs as barbiturates and chloral hydrate may be of value but they do not reach the underlying cause of insomnia. Medical and psychiatric examinations may be necessary to determine what is causing chronic sleeplessness.

## Feminizing Heart Treatment

If men with heart trouble are helped by treatment with estrogen, a female hormone, they do not worry about becoming feminized, a study reported in JAMA, 183:734, 1963, showed. Drs. Benjamin M. Kaplan and Jerome Grunes of Chicago reported no emotional disturbances among 275 heart patients at the Veterans Administration Hospital, Hines, Ill., even though the men may have lost sexual desire and ability.

## Adjustment to Heat

When a soldier is ordered to a hot climate from a temperate zone, his body adjusts if he is healthy. This is due to the action of a hormone secreted by the adrenal cortex, the outer part of the adrenal glands, located at the top of the kidneys. The hormone, called aldosterone, regulates the body's salt and water balances. Dr. Jerome W. Conn of the University of Michigan Medical Center, Ann Arbor, reported his studies dating back to World War II in JAMA, 183:775, 1963. At that time his research was carried on in a tropical climate room from which men did not emerge for periods as long as 90 days.

## TV Can Induce Epileptic Seizures

Children who have epileptic seizures are advised to sit at least five feet from the television screen, an editorial in JAMA, 183:592, 1963, said. Although TV-induced seizures are rare in the U.S., British investigators recently reported 14 children so affected.

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