

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☼ **PORTABLE AIR SAMPLER** specifically designed for measuring dust and other airborne particles in clean rooms does not increase air contamination. All operating parts are sealed in the box and the sampler is exhausted through a membrane filter by means of a vacuum pump. All exposed surfaces are non-contaminating.

• Science News Letter, 83:192 March 23, 1963

☼ **MAGNETIC SEAT BELT HOLDER** prevents seat belts from dangling on the floor or out the door when not in use. The holder, bonded to an aluminum strip, attaches to the outer edge of the front car seat and securely holds the buckle of the seat belt by magnetic attraction. No tools are required for installation.

• Science News Letter, 83:192 March 23, 1963

☼ **NEW BABY BOTTLE** insures a constant controlled flow of air-free formula, reducing incidences of colic. Consisting of a pre-sterilized, disposable, tough and pliable plastic inner bottle inserted into a bottle holder, it has a short new style nipple that deposits the milk at the front of the mouth where digestion begins. It can be warmed under running hot water.

• Science News Letter, 83:192 March 23, 1963

☼ **DISPOSABLE PAPER GOWNS**, shown in the photograph, for physical, X-ray and clinical examinations are made of paper that is tissue soft yet substantial, drapable and



completely opaque. The sleeveless gowns, 44 inches long and provided with waist ties, are available in two styles: one open on both sides and the other with an opening to be worn in front or back. They can also be used as aprons to protect garments.

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☼ **LURE-WALLET** that can be worn on the belt keeps lures handy and ready for the sportsman. Zippered around three sides, the lure wallet, made of tough, pliable and water-resistant plastic, contains a sheepskin pad on which the lures are hooked. A pocket under the pad provides space for the license while another at the bottom holds floats, sinkers and other small items.

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☼ **COTTON BALE TAGGER** is more economical and makes tagging twice as fast. Consisting of a pair of pliers grooved to hold rings fed to it automatically, the pliers can bite into the bagging and firmly attach the tag to the bale quickly and securely. The heavy duty rings permit the tag to move freely, minimizing the possibility of being torn off.

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☼ **COMPACT ALL-PURPOSE SAW** for plumbers, electricians, carpenters and home owners is designed for both vertical and horizontal flush cutting and can assume six different blade positions. Lightweight and vibration-free, the tool cuts through wood, plastics and metal and can be used to make scrolls and other designs. For multi-directional cutting it has an auxiliary handle that swings through 180 degrees with five holding positions.

• Science News Letter, 83:192 March 23, 1963

# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Hereditary Blood Pressure

Heredity may predispose a person to high blood pressure, four Mayo clinic physicians said in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 183:845, 1963. Most of the parents of 207 patients followed up after standard blood pressure tests first given in 1934 had been Mayo patients, making it easy to check family histories.

Blood pressure reactions in these tests were generally measured by taking the normal blood pressure at rest and comparing it with the rise in blood pressure when the patient's hand was placed in cold water for one minute. Hyper-reactors to the test usually had a mother or father with high blood pressure.

In the original test none of 167 normal reactors had high blood pressure, but four of 40 hyper-reactors had developed hypertension, Drs. Paul H. Barnett, Edgar A. Hines Jr., and Alexander Schirger, with Robert P. Gage, reported.

## Common Childhood Tumor Diagnosed

➤ **ONE OF THE MOST** common malignant tumors of children—neuroblastoma—has a better chance of responding to treatment now because of earlier diagnosis, a report in the *JAMA*, 186:836, 1963, says.

Previously a conclusive diagnosis had to wait for surgical removal of tissue, or biopsy, and by this time the malignancy has often spread to other parts of the body, Drs. Clyde M. Williams and Melvin Greer of the University of Florida College of Medicine, Gainesville, said. Now the discovery that the tumor in most

patients causes an excess production of the chemical compound known as dopa, 3, 4-dihydroxyphenylalanine, makes it possible to detect these cases through urinalysis.

Neuroblastoma ranks just below leukemia as the most common malignancy of infants and children, an editorial in the same issue of *JAMA*, 183:884, 1963, points out, in calling attention to the importance of this diagnostic advance.

A neuroblastoma grows rapidly and forms a bulky mass in the abdomen. It spreads rapidly and the outlook for improvement is poor although surgical removal and X-ray treatment may provide some cures.

## Cold Vaccines

With the exception of the influenza vaccines, the only viral vaccines licensed for commercial production are those containing some of the adenovirus types, Dr. Albert Z. Kapikian of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md., said in the questions and answers section of *JAMA*, 183:911, 1963.

Military recruits, most of whom are susceptible to the types of adenovirus present in the vaccine, are now being given these shots. Dr. Kapikian said that usually far less than five percent of civilians are susceptible to these viruses.

However, outbreaks of adenovirus infections have been observed in institutionalized children and in those at summer camps, so using the vaccine might be considered in such special cases.

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