

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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⊗ **CRAFTSMAN'S KNIFE** for artist, printer, model maker or engineer, has a special retractable blade that can be chipped off to produce a fresh cutting edge as needed. Each blade provides 12 cutting points, thus eliminating the need to change the blade each time it becomes dull. The knife, which weighs only one ounce, has a plastic handle and a convenient pocket clip.

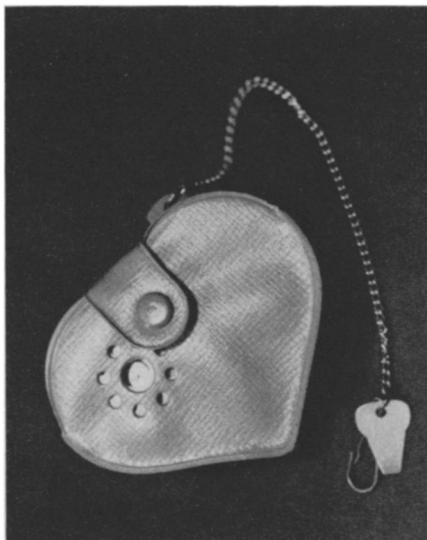
• Science News Letter, 87:96 February 6, 1965

⊗ **PROTECTIVE LIGHTING CONTROL** for unattended industrial and public buildings is an automatic device that provides sporadic lighting to outdoor protective building lighting systems. The lights go on and off automatically throughout the night simulating manual control and can be programmed for desired intervals by easy-to-set trippers. Photoelectric controls turn lights on at dusk and off at dawn.

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⊗ **CAFE DOOR PIVOTS** made for swinging louver or dwarf door  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, are useful to the do-it-yourself decorator. The quiet, easy-to-install pivot hinges function automatically by gravity, returning the doors to the center of the opening or holding them open at 90 degrees on either side of the doorway. The hinges can be adjusted to align the doors in the jamb.

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⊗ **LADIES PURSE ALARM**, shown in photograph, useful to nurses, night workers or to anyone who must travel alone at night, is a compact, heart-shaped device that fits into the palm of the hand. Operating on a single penlight flashlight battery, it sounds a loud alarm when actuated. The protector can be carried conveniently in handbag or pocket ready for use.

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⊗ **SILICONE SEALER**, useful for patching glass in home or industry, is translucent and provides an inconspicuous seal that does not interfere with light transmission. Applied from a gun in the form of a soft paste, the sealer solidifies to a durable, flexible material on exposure to air and resists drying out, cracking, chipping or discoloring with age. It is also available in colors, white, neutral aluminum and black.

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⊗ **COMPACT OUTLET BOX**, made of heavy duty steel and ready to be plugged in, is space-saving, measuring 4 feet in length and only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width and  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches in depth. Designed for industrial, laboratory or workshop use, the electrical unit has 12 outlets, a pilot light and an on-off switch. Other models with 8 or 12 outlets are also available.

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⊗ **POLYURETHANE TAPE**, applied to rough edges of desks and furniture, protects nylons and other delicate apparel against snagging. The polyurethane foam tape, backed with pressure-sensitive adhesive, can be applied to almost any surface without danger of marring. Available in  $1/16$ - and  $1/8$ -inch thicknesses, the material can be cut to the desired size from 5x5-inch sheets.

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# • Doctors Are Reading •

## Surgery Now Safer For Aged

► **MAJOR SURGICAL OPERATIONS** are apparently becoming safer and safer for aged patients.

In a recent study of 370 elderly patients undergoing major surgical operations, less than eight percent died during the operation. The average age of the patients was more than 82 years.

Forty-one cases were classified as emergencies and ten deaths were recorded during these operations. When patients elected to have surgery, however, only 19 deaths, a mortality rate of less than six percent, were recorded in the remaining 329 patients.

In an earlier study of 369 aged patients the overall mortality rate was more than 12%. Death occurred during one-third of the 24 emergency cases and 11% of those who chose to have surgery performed died during the operation.

The studies, made by Drs. Robert L. Bonus and John M. Dorsey, both of Northwestern University Medical School and Evanston Hospital, Evanston, Ill., were reported in the Archives of Surgery, 90:95, 1965.

## Incorrect Heart Massage Dangerous

Volunteer rescue squads can be trained to give closed-chest heart massage during emergencies without danger to the victim, a recent study shows.

Hazards of applying the closed-chest massage incorrectly by laymen had been pointed out in many reports. Injuries to such areas as the liver and spleen and rib fractures were commonly disclosed at autopsy.

A training program involving more than 200 rescue-squad members in New Brunswick, N.J., was undertaken recently to test if the men could be taught to use the massage procedure safely.

A program of three training sessions was effective in properly training the men, reported Dr. Peter Braun, Harvard School of Public Health, Dr. Norman Reitman, Rutgers University Medical School, New Brunswick, and Dr. Alvin A. Florin, New Jersey State Department of Health, Trenton.

The rescue squad men under actual emergency conditions arrived in time to be of benefit to the victim in as many as a third of the cases.

The researchers reported their findings in the New England Journal of Medicine 272:1, 1965.

## Leprosy Has Spread

Hansen's disease, commonly known as leprosy, can no longer be considered solely as a tropical disease, but must be recognized as having worldwide distribution, two physicians reported.

Dr. Albert L. Rosenthal and Dr. Thomas K. Rathmell, both of Trenton, N.J., issued the report following a case of the disease in a New Jersey suburban community. Although seldom found in New Jersey, Hansen's disease is occasionally seen in eastern cities with large numbers of recent arrivals from Puerto Rico and the Latin and Central Americas.

"It is quite probable that the ease of air travel will introduce more exotic conditions into areas where they are usually not considered," the physicians said in the Archives of Internal Medicine, 115:73, 1965.

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