PREFACE

The Hospital Corps Quarterly was first published in 1911 as the result of the need during World War I to supply to the Hospital Corps useful information regarding their duties and in other ways promoting the morale and efficiency of the Hospital Corps.

The purpose of the Quarterly remains the same: To serve as a medium to discuss information of interest to the Hospital Corps in the field for the advancement of efficiency and morale. It shall contain practical and useful information on all the numerous activities in which Hospital corpsmen are engaged. The information includes not only facts and new writings in technical subjects, but concerns the indoctrination and orientation of the new hospital corpsman in the Navy, and it is in these. It is hoped that such information will help increase the efficiency of the Hospital Corps and make it better able to assist in carrying out the location of the medical Department of the Navy. "To keep as many men as many guns as many guns as possible."

Contributions are derived from officers and men of the Hospital Corps, medical and dental officers, members of the Navy Nurse Corps, and from other sources. All members of the Hospital Corps (deeds and fines) are requested to maintain their correspondence by submitting articles in accordance with the instructions as given in the "Note to Contributors."

The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery does not undertake, necessarily, to endorse all views and opinions expressed on these pages.

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Sodium Fluoracetate Poisoning

by Alfred T. Williams

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Sodium fluoracetate ("1080") is one of the most effective, potent, and at the same time, most economical of all rodenticides. Its extreme toxicity, however, counterindicates its use by any but specially trained and supervised personnel. Its sale and dispensal should be governed with the same caution as that given to strychnine and other similar poisons. Persons selling it, or using it in their work in any manner should be required to possess special licenses issued solely upon their becoming specially qualified and certified by other specially trained and indoctrinated personnel designated by the State or Federal Government.

In March 1948 the writer was ordered to one of the Pacific island naval bases as sanitation officer. The major problem encountered was an extremely high rodent population among which Aotus rufus aequinotialis predominated. Due to the publicity given "1080" at that time, it was decided to use this new poison for experimental purposes indexing its effectiveness as compared to zinc phosphide. Accordingly, an experimental cage feeding program was instituted with the following findings:

1. A 1:500 concentration of "1080" was found to be as effective, if not more so, as a 1:1000 concentration of zinc phosphide.

2. Peak poising was maintained much longer than zinc phosphide.

3. Sanitation procedures did not require an observation to heat treated with "1080" as did with zinc phosphide.

4. Pregnant and lactating females required about half again as much poison to kill as did adult rats.

5. Young were killed by milk from poisoned mothers.

With these findings it was decided to experiment with actual field acceptability. An adjoining small island was chosen as the site, owing to the heavy rodent population, isolated nature, and other factors ideal for such experimentation. A small area was chosen and set aside. Twenty-five stations were placed over an approximate 100-acre grid. They were routinely poisoned for 4 days, and on the fifth day 1:500 was incorporated into the feed. 50 grams of poisoned bait being placed in each station. Results were beyond all expectations, more than 800 dead rats were actually recovered. One thing marred the success of this experiment. A dog on the island was killed from eating the poisoned rations.

This recalled the incident of rodents to regurgitate, and it was decided to experiment with the incorporation of an emotive with the poison bait. Tartar emetic was chosen after further experimentation by reason of being non-noticeable loss of acceptability or poisoning being noted. By using 2 parts tartar emetic to each part "1080" it was found that a dog would regurgitate poison and recover from the same amount of "1080" as was required to kill another dog of equal weight in which the emotive had not been added. Dogs used were ones that had previously been poisoned, and it is felt that no indication suffering was caused due to lack of accompanying pain or comfort from the poison.

With these findings, connected with another field test of the same propositions producing comparable results, was decided to make one grand test by one prebaiting and poisoning program covering the entire island on which the base was located. Stations were placed over the entire island, 500 in all, covering an approximate 100-acre grid as before. From prebaiting it was estimated that 200 pounds of poison bait would be required. The waiting out of the required baits period of 1080 caused the near demise of the operation.

During the waiting, a small quantity of the poison was blown into the writer's ear and some of it was ingested. Aotus scarlet taste was shortly thereafter noted. Following almost immediately by a tingling sensation around the corners of the mouth and
Enteritis, Inflammation of the inner lining of the intestines, usually accompanied by diarrhrea and abdominal pain. It is caused by bacterial or viral infection, often brought on by eating contaminated food or water. Treatment may include antibiotics, anti-diarrheal medications, and hydration to prevent dehydration.

Malaria, an infectious disease caused by a parasite transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Symptoms include fever, chills, nausea, vomiting, and fatigue. Treatment involves antimalarial drugs, and in severe cases, hospitalization and intensive care.

Asthma, a chronic condition characterized by inflammation of the airways, causing wheezing, breathlessness, and coughing. Treatment includes inhalers, oral medications, and avoidance of triggers.

RSV, Respiratory Syncytial Virus, is a common cause of severe respiratory illness in young children. Treatment involves supportive care, hydration, and sometimes antiviral medications.

HIV or AIDS, Human Immunodeficiency Virus or Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome, is a chronic viral infection that attacks the immune system. Treatment involves antiretroviral therapy, which helps manage the virus and prevent opportunistic infections.

Pneumonia, inflammation of the air sacs in the lungs. Treatment includes antibiotics, oxygen therapy, and rest.
You have been told to make a postoperative bed for a patient who will return from the operating room, within a half hour. Good!

Of course you have collected three sheets, a clean mattress cover, two blankets, three pillows and pillow cases; and several folded etc-water bags for bed may be in need of supplemental heat.

You have made sure that the mattress cover that you have stretched upon the hospital mattress has no wrinkles. You take one of your neatly clean sheets and envelope it around the mattress, so that the open end will be at the foot of the bed. This sheet must be very tight; stretched almost to its endurable point, while the corners should be folded in and neatly tacked beneath the mattress. Then you place the rubber sheet over the midportion of the bed, stretching it very tightly to avoid the uncomfortable wrinkles. A sheet folded in half, and placed over the rubber sheet, will help assure the required cleanliness and stiffness of the headrest.

Your best sheet should be placed on top of the bed. A blanket is placed over this top sheet. Sand at the foot of the bed and fold about 10 inches of the top sheet and blanket toward the head of the bed; then in two parts, stand at the head of the bed and fold 10 inches of the sheet and blanket toward the foot of the bed. You must decide on which side you wish to have your patient since the bed. You have chosen the left. All right. Make neat fold of the sheet and blanket toward the right of the bed until you have the bed cleared, and the blankets ready to be spread over the patient.

Be sure there are no glaring lights and overhead lights, and that noise has been eliminated as much as possible.

You can hear the elevator grating its way from the operating room. Are you ready? You have even prepared medication, and water for the patient? Don't! Not unless you have standing orders from the surgeon, and then, only if they are written. Be certain the postoperative orders are written.

Greet the patient with a smile and a kindly word; don't be a sour-pus. Your cheerfulness may often be as important to a P. O. case as the most carefully executed nursing care.

The average World War II veteran served in the armed forces for about two and one-half years, Veterans' Administration statistics.

By October 1, compensation and pensions were being paid to 809 veterans of the India Wars, 44 Civil War veterans, 437,969 World War I veterans, 42,854 reserve members of the regular establishment, and 1,718,949 veterans of World War II, Veterans' Administration said.