
STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION SECTION

Reports and Articles for this Section will be welcomed by the Hon. Organising Secretary, Miss J. ROBSON, S.R.N., D.N., Rainy Hospital, Royapuram, Madras.

A brief abstract of burns admitted in the Scudder Memorial Hospital

Name of the patient—Veeraswamy.

Name of the Village—Banapuram.

History.—A boy of thirteen years has been burnt badly as a result of his clothes catching fire from a lamp which fell down on him. It happened 12 hrs. before admission into the hospital. No first aid was rendered before admission.

Area involved.—Extensive burns involving face, body and limbs—more than one-third part of the body affected.

Character.—Body covered with blisters, here and there, exposing area of red cuticles. Temp. 102° F., pulse 104 and respiration 28 per minute. Patient complained of severe pain and thirst.

Treatment.—Patient was put to bed at once. Morphine Sulphate $\frac{1}{8}$ th gr. was given by hypodermic injection. The skin was cleaned gently with weak antiseptic lotion and blisters were opened aseptically. To avoid chill and prevent irritation, a suitable cage was placed and hot water bottles supplied. Then tannic 5% solution was sprayed with an ordinary flit pump every 15 minutes, until a black coagulum was formed. This treatment was continued for 24 hours and the parts were dried with electric lamp bulbs, which also supplied heat, to keep the patient warm. Other orders were to note hourly pulse, to force fluids, rectal saline ounces xvi bid. and Morphine Sulphate $\frac{1}{8}$ th gr. by hypodermic injection. S.O.S. The corners of the eyes and nostrils were smeared with vaseline and Merchro-chrome 1% solution instilled into the eyes. New blisters appeared and were opened. Tannic acid treatment was continued for 2 hours. The tannic acid treatment by forming the coagulum lessens pain, reduces shock, and prevents absorption of toxins. After the coagulum was well formed, the tannic acid treatment was discontinued and there was no pain, the morphine injection S.O.S. order was stopped on the third day. There was slight infection and the temperature mounted to 105°F on the 4th day. Tub bath was given with Soda Bicarb solution (Soda Bicarb oz. i to a gallon of warm water). During the course of the bath the coagulated tissue came out and the exposed areas were dressed with boric ointment smeared on big pieces of gauze. Every time after the bath, the patient was put to bed and artificial heat was applied with electric lamp bulbs. On the 6th day all the coagulated tissue came off and there was a rise in temperature upto 106° F. More fluids were forced and the tub bath was continued followed by boric ointment dressing until the burn was healed. There was contraction of finger and left knee. Splints were applied to correct them. The temperature came to normal by lysis at the end of 3rd week, and the burns were healed almost all on the 4th week without any scar. The patient

was kept in the hospital one more week to improve his general health. Tonics were given during the convalescent period and the patient was finally discharged on the 5th week.

The tannic acid treatment 2½ to 5% solution and forcing fluids are the most important factors in the well doing of many cases of burns of second degree.

(1) **The Tannic Acid Solution** precipitates albumen substance and forms black coagulum which prevents toxic absorption, allays pain and reduces shock.

(2) **Forcing of Fluids** eliminates toxins.

(3) **Morphine Sulphate Injection** relieves pain and prevents shock.

Complication.—He had slight infection.

R. JAMES ARULSANAM.

11th September, 1935



THE HEALTH VISITORS' LEAGUE SECTION

The Honorary Secretary of the League,
Miss M. E. Raynor, Indian Red Cross Society,
Egmore, Madras, will gladly receive reports
and articles for insertion in this section.

Madras, October 18th, 1935.

DEAR FELLOW HEALTH VISITORS,

I am going to tell you this month about a Centre I have seen recently in South India, where the staff are trying specially to deal with the deficiency of Vitamins B and C in the diet of very poor mothers and children. Many of the people in the area are very near the starvation line and subsist almost entirely on very inadequate quantities of milled rice from which most of the Vitamin B has been removed with the outer layers during milling. A good deal of the rice is parboiled before milling and though some of the Vitamin B is saved in this way (any Vitamin A is, of course, destroyed), the parboiled rice is dirtier than white rice and has to be washed many times during which the Vitamin B is dissolved and thrown away in the rice water. In many of the homes in the area the diet is therefore found to contain very little Vitamin B, which is, of course, needed for the building and repair of the body as well as for its special work of keeping the brain and nerves healthy and strong, of keeping the heart, liver, digestive glands and kidneys strong, as well as for the muscles of the body, including those of the bowel, and of maintaining appetite and digestion. If any Vitamin can be said to be more important than another for health, it is Vitamin B. Without it there is distaste for food and lack of appetite, often a taste for unhealthy things (we notice that in our Centres), and there may be indigestion, diarrhoea or constipation and abdominal pain, weak muscles and irritable nerves and lowered