

## HOW TO APPLY B.I.P.P.

We republish from the *St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* the following very interesting information concerning B.I.P.P. poisoning, and how to prevent it. The *Journal* states:—

In the October, 1917, number we published an article by Mr. Paul Bousfield, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., on B.I.P.P. poisoning, in which the author stated that in his opinion the iodoform was occasionally the cause of the trouble. Instances were cited which certainly pointed to this possibility.

In the following issue we printed letters on the subject by Mr. A. Morford, M.B., B.S., and Col. Gordon Watson, both of whom were strongly of the opinion that small quantities of B.I.P.P. were absolutely essential if trouble was to be avoided.

Since then we have received the following communication on the subject from the inventor of the preparation, Prof. Rutherford Morison, who has very kindly given us permission to publish it, not the least interesting part of which is the reference to the chemical reaction and possible subsequent action of B.I.P.P.:—

"The *Bartholomew's Hospital Journal* with the article on B.I.P.P. poisoning was sent to me, and I was much interested in it. My own experience of poisoning is limited to early cases, when we piled in B.I.P.P. so as to fill the wounds up with it. Even then there were few serious cases and *no* deaths. The most serious got stomatitis, and looked anæmic. For the last year the most we have noticed was a blue line round the necks of teeth, especially dirty ones, without any symptoms or disturbance of the general condition. As I have charge of 200 beds, and see many large and serious wounds, it seems to me justifiable to say that if poisoning follows this method of treatment it cannot have been carried out as I use it. It may be that too much of the paste has been used, but my belief is that perhaps the bad results depend more upon the method of preparation of the paste. Recent inquiries have shown me that it is rare to get the paste prepared as I use it. Some of the preparations are much more seductive looking, but they will not smear into the tissues. Others—especially from France—contain large granular-looking lumps. Others are made up with vaseline, glycerin, oil, &c. The paste I have always used has been made for me by Sergt. Hunter, dispenser to the Northumberland War Hospital, and he has promised me to be responsible for supplies sent out by W. Owen & Son, Chemists,

Percy Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Mr. Sydney Dunstan, head of the dispensary of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has undertaken the responsibility of supplies sold by the Nimol Company, 3, College Street, Newcastle-on-Tyne, so that I hope this trouble may soon be ended or mended.

"As to the germicide which does the work I cannot speak from any knowledge of my own, but I asked Mr. Sydney Dunstan to make some investigations bearing upon it, and he told me early in 1916 that he had found that a chemical reaction between the bismuth nitrate and iodoform liberated free iodine, and went on doing so for long periods of time. This was confirmed by the ladies at Endell Street Military Hospital, whose paper was published in the *Lancet* of March 3rd, 1917.

"The other steps described in my method are, so far as I know, of quite as great importance as the use of the paste.

"They are:—

"(1) Cleansing of the skin surrounding the wound with a strong antiseptic.

"(2) Free exposure of the wound cavity.

"(3) Mechanical cleansing of the wound.

"(4) Spirit swabbing of the wound and surrounding skin.

"(5) B.I.P.P.

"(6) Closure of the wound as far as possible with interrupted sutures.

"(7) Dress with sterile gauze, abundant wool, and a firm bandage.

"It is now certain that if these steps can be thoroughly carried out, infected wounds will heal under a single dressing, as aseptic ones do.

"If you have the chance, try the method on a case of acute patellar bursitis, laying the bursa freely open, then sewing it up. You will no longer doubt.

"RUTHERFORD MORISON."

## SOCIAL HYGIENE ACT, NEW ZEALAND, 1917.

This has now become law, and its principal provisions are as follows:—It enacts, under penalties to be laid down by regulations, that all persons suffering from venereal disease must place themselves under treatment either by a registered medical practitioner or at a hospital, and must continue to submit to such treatment until cured or non-infective. The responsibility in regard to children—*i.e.*, persons under sixteen years of age—for complying with these

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