

## PARRESINE.

### A DRESSING FOR BURNS AND METHOD OF SCIENTIFIC APPLICATION.

In the field of medicine and surgery there have been many innovations, says the *Modern Hospital*, but the two which have attracted the most attention are Carrel's method of wound sterilization by means of Dakin's hypochlorite solution and Dakin's improved new chlorine-carrying antiseptic (put on the market in this country under the trade name of "Chlorazene"), and a paraffin dressing for burns as applied in the French war hospitals. Paraffin mixed with other ingredients, used either as a poultice for rheumatism or neuritis or a covering for burns, is by no means a new treatment, and it is stated that a French surgeon, Dr. Barthe de Sandfort, first reported the method about ten years ago, but there never was such an extensive opportunity for its use as during the present war in Europe. From various sources we learn that very satisfactory results have been obtained in cases of burns, whenever this dressing has been carefully and scientifically applied.

Under the trade name of "Parresine" the Abbot Laboratories of Chicago have put on the market a wax-like substance containing approximately 95 per cent. of paraffin, 2 per cent. eucalyptol, treated by the addition of a vegetable wax and a mineral and a vegetable resin to modify its physical character, especially as regards plasticity, pliability, and adhesiveness.

Parresine, when heated, begins to melt at a

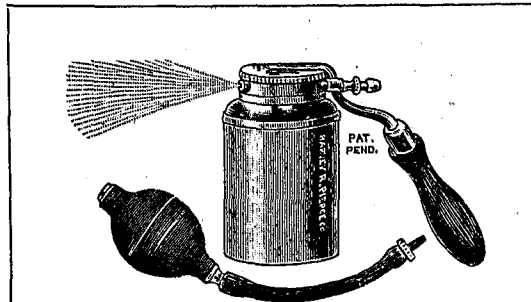
temperature of 114° to 117° F., becoming completely liquid at 120° F. It is marketed in cakes weighing approximately from 1 to 2 lb. each.

The preparation is used only in the hot liquid state. While it is sterile itself when melted, the usual care should be taken to prevent bacteri-

al or other contamination. The ordinary "double boiler" serves the purpose of heating admirably when a more elaborate apparatus, such as the Parresine atomizer (Fig. 1), is not available.

It is pointed out by surgeons who have made extensive use of this method that, while the wound should be clean, it should never be rubbed, but should be treated throughout as tenderly as possible, so as not to disturb or injure any particle of epidermis which may become a nucleus for the development of new skin. If the burn is a fresh one, simply flooding it with weak solution (0.125 to 0.25 per cent.) of Chlorazene (Dakin's solution) is sufficient.

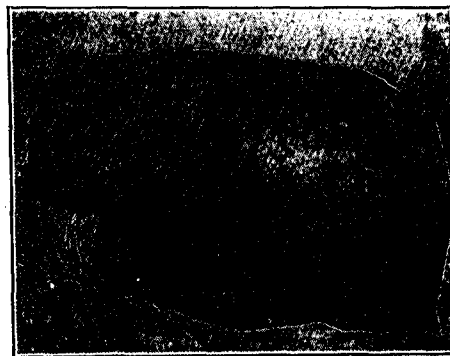
In seriously infected burns, after flooding with Chlorazene and drying, it is desirable to apply with an atomizer, prior to using Parresine, a spray of Dakin's new oil-soluble antiseptic, recently described in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* under the name Dichloramine—T. This is dissolved in chlorinated eucalyptol, and diluted to a strength of 2 to 5 per cent. with chlorinated paraffin oil. This antiseptic can be used in a concentration twenty to forty times as great as Dakin's hypochlorite solution, and its antiseptic action is continuous. Dichloramine—T and chlorinated eucalyptol and



PARRESINE ATOMIZER.



APPLICATION OF PARRESINE DRESSING WITH AN ATOMIZER.



PROPERLY APPLIED PARRESINE DRESSING.

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