Clinical and other Notes

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE VTH CASUALTY CLEARING STATION.

PRESIDENT: COLONEL F. R. COPPINGER, O.B.E.,
D.D.M.S. II Corps.

We have received the following notes regarding the formation and proceedings of the Medical Society of the Vth Casualty Clearing Station.

The first meeting of the Medical Society, Vth Casualty Clearing Station will take place on Sunday (14.30 hours), December 17, 1939, at the Casualty Clearing Station.

AGENDA.

Business Meeting.

Discussion to decide the following:

(a) The most convenient places to hold future meetings of the Society. To settle dates and times.
(b) The question of formation of scientific meetings into Sections.
(c) The relative length of time proposed to be allotted to demonstrations (of a clinical or laboratory nature) and to papers.
(d) Arrangements for reception of papers to be read at future meetings, allotment of time to be given for such papers, arrangements as to meetings at which these papers will be read.
(e) Any other business.

Scientific Meeting.

A demonstration of the medical and surgical equipment of a casualty clearing station with some examples of its recent application to be given by Major G. R. McNab, M.D., F.R.C.P.Edin., R.A.M.C., and Captain P. H. Lenton, M.B., B.Ch., R.A.M.C.

C. S. P. HAMILTON,
Major, R.A.M.C.,

December 8, 1939.

Hon. Secretary, Medical Society, Vth C.C.S.

MEETING.

A meeting was held at the Vth Casualty Clearing Station on December 17, 1939, the President and 26 members being present.

The following points were discussed and agreed upon:

(a) That future meetings would, when possible, be held at various centres, such as field ambulances, if their Commanding Officers agreed to this proposition. However, before a decision is made as to the meeting places their accessibility for the majority of members would be considered.

It was agreed that the next meeting be held at Vth Casualty Clearing Station on December 31, 1939, at 14.30 hours.

(b) It was agreed to divide the Scientific Section into three subsections,
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Surgical including Dental Surgery and Radiology, Medical including Bacteriology and Hygiene, Dermatological and V.D.

Major L. O'Shaughnessy was elected Hon. Secretary of the Surgical Subsection.

Major G. R. McNab was elected Hon. Secretary of the Medical Subsection.

Major Cliff, VIth Casualty Clearing Station, Hon. Secretary of the Dermatological and V.D. Subsection.

(c) It was agreed to ask members to send their papers for Section meetings to the appropriate hon. secretary, and that these secretaries should select papers to be read and pass them on to Major C. S. P. Hamilton, the Hon. Secretary of the Society.

(d) That twenty minutes be given for each paper and fifteen minutes for discussion.

Major McNab and Captain Lenton gave a short discourse on the work carried out at the casualty clearing station. They gave details of three interesting types of cases. One a meningitis in a patient who was being treated for gonorrhœa with M & B 693 in which no organisms could be found in the cerebrospinal fluid though this contained 700 cells. Culture and guinea-pig tests were negative. The case responded to rest and sulphanilamide, and on transfer to the Base the symptoms and signs had subsided. The two other patients were admitted for hæmaturia and renal colic supervening after treatment for gonorrhœa by normal courses of M & B 693. In these two cases typical lens-shaped and broomstick crystals of M & B 693 were found in the urine. The question arose as to whether these patients had taken a sufficient quantity of fluid during treatment.

A case of spontaneous pneumothorax was diagnosed and successfully treated by operation with a modified Maxwell’s pneumothorax apparatus. This was interesting as it is probably one of the first cases of its kind to be treated by this method in a casualty clearing station.

Medical and surgical equipment was demonstrated, and points of interest regarding deficiencies and sufficiencies were discussed in relation to the requirements of a casualty clearing station.

At the next meeting on December 31, 1939 (at VIth Casualty Clearing Station, 14.30 hours), Major L. O'Shaughnessy, F.R.C.S., and Major G. R. McNab, F.R.C.P.Edin., will demonstrate Surgical and Medical Equipment used in the modern treatment of chest diseases, and will deliver a short discourse on the subject.

C. S. P. Hamilton,

Major, R.A.M.C.,

Hon. Secretary, Medical Society, VIth C.C.S.

December 20, 1939.