

dosage in the early stages seems to give the best results and under optimum conditions 19–20 grams given in the first three days have given the highest percentage of cures. In general a high dosage over a short period appears more effective than a moderate dosage over a longer period.

The War Office,
London, S.W.1.
September 12, 1940.

I am, etc.,

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GAS CLEANSING CENTRES, FIRST AID POSTS, AND THEIR COUNTERPART IN THE FIELD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS."

SIR,—Captain W. A. Robinson in his article on the above subject in the August issue of the JOURNAL states that "it is obvious that it is not possible to establish buildings" for Gas Cleansing Centres in the forward areas and that "the principles involved in the centres can be applied in the field" by marking out separate areas on the ground.

When discussing First Aid Posts, however, Captain W. A. Robinson omits to mention that the use of buildings will frequently be impossible for this purpose and that the principle of marking out "a dirty" area on the ground for the reception of contaminated wounded applies in the same way.

It is further stated that "By cleansing a casualty at this Post he will be saved from the effects of Blister Gas *if he is treated early*. Even if ten or fifteen minutes have elapsed, the effects will be reduced."

It is obvious that only in rare cases will it be possible for a casualty to reach a First Aid Post in such a short time as ten to fifteen minutes and attention is therefore drawn to "Protection against Gas and Air Raids, 1939," Pamphlet No. 1, Section 106, para. 3 which states that "If the situation permits and life will not be endangered by the delay, decontamination of wounded men should be carried out in the area in which they are found." All contaminated clothing should be removed and the patient treated with Ointment, Anti-Gas.

The importance of stressing this point during training cannot be too strongly emphasized.

In order that patients who have been undressed may be re clothed, one suit of pyjamas should be carried with each stretcher in addition to the blankets.

September 2, 1940.

I am, etc.,

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