Clinical and other Notes.

MILD SEQUELÆ FOLLOWING ANTI-RABIC VACCINE ADMINISTRATION.

By Major P. F. Palmer,
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A lady who had been given the mildest course of anti-rabic vaccine, consisting of a daily injection of 2 c.c. for seven days, soon after completion of the treatment complained of pains over the hips, constipation and an inability to feel the act of defecation when it occurred. Later she complained that even gently rubbing herself with a towel over her hips caused tingling pains.

That this was due to the injections was corroborated by a Warrant Officer who was undergoing a daily injection of 5 c.c. for fourteen days. He stated that he suffered from a somewhat similar condition. His bowels had always been extremely regular and he visited the bathroom on getting up each morning. On two or three occasions he visited the bathroom as usual, sat on the commode, and after a while gave it up as a bad job, thinking that he would try again later. To his surprise, on replacing the lid, he noticed that he had passed a stool. This occurred shortly after the beginning of treatment and before the course was completed. These mild effects correspond closely with the major sequelæ which always occur within thirty days, 88 per cent beginning within twenty days. The earliest symptoms noted have been within seven days of the commencement of treatment and the latter case began about the same time.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE BUCKET LATRINE.

By O.C. a Field Hygiene Section.

The bucket latrine, which has been chosen in many Divisions as the most effective method of disposal of faces, has been found to suffer from a few defects which are easily and cheaply remedied with the use of tools and material readily to hand under active service conditions.

The prime defect noted in many inspections of billets and camps was the lack of a self-closing lid. In the regulation superstructure of the latrine a wooden bar is fitted to prevent the lid opening beyond a right angle. This device causes the lid to fall under the influence of the force of gravity when the user vacates the seat. Unfortunately it also causes discomfort by...
pressure upon the back during the act of defecation and hence is often broken or removed by the soldier in an excess of unease.

To overcome this difficulty the hinge described and shown diagrammatically (figs. 1, 2, 3 and 4) is installed by my Section. It is indestructible, permanent and comfortable in use.

The materials needed are: 2 pieces of thick wire 10 inches long
4 staples; 1 used outer motor tyre (sufficient for 36 hinges). The tools required: 1 hammer; 1 nail; 1 penknife.

To make the hinge, cut out a strip from the rubber tyre 6 x 2 inches and cut a hole in each corner (fig. 1). Thread the wire through the holes in the strip and draw it tight, squaring it off with a few blows of the hammer. Bore corresponding holes in the latrine cover and seat (fig. 4), thread the wire through these and bend it over, finishing the attachment by a staple straddling each wire below (figs. 2 and 3). The rubber should be attached with the outer side upward to give full effect.

With this device the lid can be easily opened beyond a right angle, indeed to 180°, yet closes automatically by the natural elasticity of the hinges. The need for a wooden bar and its supports is eliminated, a very much lighter lid of three-ply wood can be used, the hinge can be fixed far back allowing a longer resting area for the buttocks, and a larger hole can be constructed. Finally the cost of the improvement is less than 1d. per hinge.

A second difficulty encountered is in deficiency of the bucket guides and platform. The guides below the seats have here been shaped to fit closely to the rim of the bucket (fig. 5). This prevents the seat sliding and the holes moving from the opening of the bucket thus giving rise to soiling of the ground and entrance of flies to the bucket contents.

These guides are readily shaped and attached with the aid of a saw, penknife, nails and hammer.

To prevent the bucket rocking on its platform the following apparatus is designed (figs. 6 and 7). It consists in a wooden square with hinged wooden attachments the free edges of which are cut to fit the bucket. These free edges are joined together by means of pieces of rubber tyre (fig. 7). Thus if the bucket tilts in one direction the opposite wooden support presses upon it and restores it to the vertical. This structure does not prevent the easy removal of the bucket for cleansing.

The material needed is wood, a used tyre, staples, and wire, and the tools, a spokeshave, nail and hammer.

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HYDROPONICS AND AGGREGATE CULTURE.

BY MAJOR R. S. DE C. BENNETT,
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The above subject has interested me for a considerable time and now that the war is turning towards the East, I feel that if hydroponics and aggregate culture were scientifically developed it would have a very definite bearing on the general health of troops.

Hydroponics is a type of culture that has been done by natives in a crude way for centuries and has only recently been placed on a scientific basis by Professor Gerichi.