In retrospect we were lucky in our nineteen days of cruising in having fine weather and smooth seas where it mattered most. The storms, gales and rain came to us in land-locked waters where shelter could always be found and where the seas were comparatively smooth. A rule on board was that the cook was not permitted to wash up and so we had a strict roster which prevented any argument and made everyone happy. We had a 50-gallon tank of water on board and two 4-gallon emergency tanks. It was found easier to replenish the large tank daily rather than having to refill the whole 50 gals. at once so another roster of duty for refilling the smaller tanks was necessary. Our one cylinder of calor gas did the job of cooking our meals and heating the saloon and is still going strong. The two lads who joined at Inverness thoroughly enjoyed it, and both were full of pluck. Family cruising in this way is an economical and most delightful way of having a holiday, providing you get good weather, smooth seas, and take reasonable care to avoid undue risks. The great thing is not to frighten the children, or your wife. I think I have succeeded as we are already planning our next cruise which will be, we hope, to Ireland.

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**Clinical and Other Notes**

**IMPROVISED ‘TIN’ INCINERATOR**

**BY**

**Captain J. P. A. DEVITT**

**Royal Army Medical Corps**

**INTRODUCTION**

The ever-growing number of food tins which daily find their way into the unit incinerator, from cookhouses, Messes, and Regimental Institutes is rendering the task of the incinerator attendant increasingly difficult. Unless stoking is carefully regulated, the chamber soon becomes blocked, and much of the rubbish remains unburnt. Should this residue be deposited into an open pit, the danger of fly infestation becomes immediately apparent.

To overcome this difficulty a simple destructor has been improvised which permits of the rapid incineration of all empty food tins, thereby enabling the main camp incinerator to dispose of the remainder of the refuse in a satisfactory manner.

The destructor, which is operated by a simple oil and water flash fire, consists essentially of an open 44-gallon oil drum, with a burner platform of 2 in. mesh expanded metal to support the empty tins. To facilitate removal of contents after incineration, two carrying handles are fixed to the drum 6 in. from the top.
CONSTRUCTIONAL DETAILS

The top is cut out of a 44-gallon oil drum and an opening 14 in. long and 10 in. high is made in the side of the drum 1½ in. from the bottom.

Two 2 ft. lengths of piping or iron bars are passed through the drum immediately above this opening and approximately 14 in. apart.

A sheet of 2 in. mesh expanded metal cut to the shape of the drum is then lowered on to the pipes and securely wired (fig. 1).

Finally 2 metal carrying handles are bolted to the drum on either side, approximately 6 in. from the top.

DETAILS OF FLASH FIRE

The heating unit for the destructor is an oil and water flash fire—a well-known Army device for utilizing waste sump oil. The oil and water containers are erected on to a small platform to which is attached a 3/4 in. feed pipe. The slope of the feed pipe is adjusted so that the lower end is suspended approximately 4 in. above the centre of the flash-plate.

A convenient design for a flash plate is illustrated at fig. 2. The top and centre plates are perforated and fixed to the base by 3 in. bolts.
OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS

The tins are loaded into the drum and the flash plate pre-heated by burning upon it an oily rag or other readily combustible material.

When the plate is very hot and dry, and not before, a little oil is run down the pipe followed by a trace of water.

When flashing occurs, the flow of oil and water is increased until about \( \frac{1}{3} \) to \( \frac{1}{2} \) the quantity of water is being used.

Complete incineration should be affected in ten minutes. At the end of 25 minutes the drum should be sufficiently cool to permit final disposal of the contents.

SUMMARY

A simple improvised destructor is described which permits of the rapid incineration of empty food tins from a unit.

The destructor and heating can be easily constructed from salvaged material. Only simple tools are required and it is well within the capacity of a Regimental pioneer.

Correspondence

FUTURE MEDICAL OFFICERS FOR THE ARMY

Sir,

Having read the provocative series of articles by Colonel R. H. Robinson, T.D., on "Future Medical Officers for the Army," it seemed that it might be of interest to record the fate, over the past few years, of some of the recruiting inducements mentioned by him.

(a) Undergraduate Military Training.—One of the inducements to join the pre-war O.T.C. was that, in the event of a war, those who had obtained certificates "A" and "B" would obtain three and six months' antedate of commission respectively. Unfortunately this is not what happened, as on the outbreak of the 1939/45 war instead of T.A. commissions being granted as hitherto emergency commissions were given, with the result that all applications by holders of these certificates for antedate were automatically disallowed.

(b) Antedate for Commission for whole-time appointment in a recognized civil hospital.—A.C.I. 1814/43 reopened the granting of short-service Regular Army commissions to emergency commissioned officers, stated what the gratuities would be and that other conditions were as laid down in the Pay Warrant. To the surprise of those short-service officers who applied for and were granted post-war regular commissions, their claims for antedate were turned down on an amendment No. 164 (27/General/3230) to the Pay Warrant 1940, which was not published until July 1949 but which had retrospective...