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DURAGUT is an exceptionally strong catgut suture, heat sterilised, retaining its firmness in contact with moisture. It resists absorption for longer than ordinary catgut, but does not cause irritation.

DURAGUT is prepared by a process approved under the T.S.A. Regulations.

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MERSONS of EDINBURGH

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in Ophthalmic Therapy

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In the advertisement of June 36 the percentage of recoveries was wrongly shown as 96.3; it should be 96.9, as above.

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BLOOD COLLECTION
as a practical test of the ANTI-STAPHYLOCOCCAL POWER of antiseptics

When blood is collected for transfusion — particularly if it is to be stored for a time — the paramount importance of avoiding skin contamination is plain. Yet the collecting needle must pass through skin known to harbour micro-organisms in large numbers and the difficulty of rendering the skin sterile is an urgent and acute problem. The collection of blood and its subsequent culture can, therefore, be made a practical test of the value of an antiseptic in skin sterilisation. The following table sets out the comparative results obtained, using various procedures in parallel for the pre-operative treatment of the skin at the bend of the elbow of blood donors.

PROCEDURE: Category: BACTERIOLOGICAL
Method: ANTISEPSIS OF SKIN PRIOR TO BLOOD COLLECTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Total No. Samples</th>
<th>No. showing growth of organisms</th>
<th>% successful</th>
<th>% unsuccessful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swab with 5% aqueous solution of O-SYL. ANTISEPTIC.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>nil</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swab held on skin for 5 mins.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto, 2% soln. 5 mins.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto, 1% soln. 5 mins.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditto, 1% soln. 1 min.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Total No. Samples</th>
<th>No. showing growth of organisms</th>
<th>% successful</th>
<th>% unsuccessful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANTISEPTIC &quot;X.&quot;</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Used on swab held in contact with skin for time stated:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% aqueous soln. for 5 mins.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20% nitric acid for 5 mins.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30% nitric acid for 5 mins.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30% soln. in spirit for 5 mins.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Total No. Samples</th>
<th>No. showing growth of organisms</th>
<th>% successful</th>
<th>% unsuccessful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPIRIT AND WATER</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75% spirit in water swabbed on skin and held in contact for:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 mins.</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 mins.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 min.</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure</th>
<th>Total No. Samples</th>
<th>No. showing growth of organisms</th>
<th>% successful</th>
<th>% unsuccessful</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IODINE IN SPIRIT.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2% iodine in spirit thoroughly swabbed over skin, no other preparation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comment on results obtained

Of the various procedures employed, only one yielded completely satisfactory results over a series of 50 tests — namely, O-Syl Antiseptic in 5 per cent. aqueous solution.

The failure of other methods is marked unless spirit is added to the antiseptic solution, thus suggesting that the results obtained by these methods are due rather to the spirit content than to the antiseptic.

The dominant factor — STAPHYLOCOCCI

Of the many micro-organisms found on and in the human skin, streptococci and staphylococci take pride of place. In fact, in the tests reported here, staphylococci proved to be the principal organism grown in 50 of the 56 cases (i.e. 89 per cent. of the positive cultures obtained) in which sterilisation of the skin appeared defective. As already reported in this journal, O-syl has been proved to be highly effective against staphylococci and it is undoubtedly this fact which leads to the results reported here. The failure of other procedures to give the desired result is due largely to their inability to kill staphylococci on and in the human skin.

PHENOL CO-EFFICIENT OF O-SYL (under RIDEAL-WALKER conditions employing Staphylococcus aureus) - 3.0
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RIDEAL-WALKER CO-EFFICIENT OF O-SYL (employing Bacterium typhosum) - 3.75

O-syl should always be used as directed
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\[ \text{Magnesium Hydroxide} \ \text{Mg(OH)}_2 - 9\% \]

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Injection of Mersalyl—Boots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inject Mersalyl B.P.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box of 6 x 1 c.c. ampoules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box of 6 x 2 c.c. ampoules</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mersalyl Compound Tablets—Boots</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bottle of 25 tablets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**EMERGENCY**

See British Medical Journal, 1941, June 21st, p. 932

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WALSALL GENERAL HOSPITAL.—Applications are invited from registered medical practitioners, male and female, for the above appointment. The salary is £500 per annum, with full residential emoluments. Applications should be sent at once to the undersigned.—J. H. Town Clerk. Town Clerk's Office, So. Road, Coventry.
IMPORTANT—All applicants should read the notice about qualifications required, etc., printed at the top of page 12
GROSVENOR SANATORIUM, Ashton, Kent.—Applications are invited from registered medical practitioners, male and female, including R & W practitioners, for the appointment of Assistant Medical Officer (B2), now vacant, to hold a post for the period of six months. Salary £250 p.a. plus remuneration for Tuberculosis experience essential. Applications should be sent to Dr. B. Roberts, Medical Supt.

HOTSPUR SANATORIUM, (B50), North Tyneside.—Applications are invited from registered medical practitioners (male or female), including R & W practitioners, for the appointment of a House Surgeon (A), now vacant, to hold a post for the period of six months. Salary £250 p.a. plus remuneration for Tuberculosis experience essential. If hold by an R or a W practitioner appointment will be for the period of six months extended. Salary at the rate of £250-£250 per annum. Applications should be sent to the undersigned as soon as possible.—J. V. Roe, Sec.—South Tyneside Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

ROCHDALE INFERNO.—Applications are invited from registered medical practitioners, male and female, for the appointment of a Medical Officer (A) for a House Surgeon (B) now vacant, to hold a post for the period of six months. Salary £250 p.a. plus remuneration for Tuberculosis experience essential. Applications should be sent to the undersigned as soon as possible.—J. V. Roe, Sec.—South Tyneside Tuberculosis Sanatorium.

ROYAL WEST SUSSEX HOSPITAL, Chichester, (134 Beds.) Resident Medical Officers are required for the appointment of two R.M.O. (B1, B2) vacancies. Salary £250 p.a. plus full remuneration for Tuberculosis experience essential. Applications should be sent to the undersigned as soon as possible.—K. H. Williams, Medical Superintendent.

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ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL, County Borough of Huddersfield.—Applications are invited for the appointment of a Medical Officer (A), now vacant, to hold a post for the period of six months. Salary £250 p.a. plus remuneration for Tuberculosis experience essential. Applications should be sent to the undersigned as soon as possible.—E. W. Stockwell, Secretary.

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WREXHAM AND EAST DENBIGHSHIRE WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, Wrexham.—Applications are invited from registered medical practitioners, male and female, for the appointment of a House Surgeon (A), now vacant, to hold a post for the period of six months. Salary at the rate of £150 p.a. per annum, with full remuneration for Tuberculosis experience essential. Applications should be sent to the undersigned as soon as possible.—H. A. Madge, Secretary.

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EXAMINING SURGEONS: Factories Act, 1937. The following appointment as Examining Surgeon under the Factories Act, 1937, is vacant: Shrewsbury, Shropshire. Applications, which should be received not later than July 12, 1943, should be sent to the Chief Inspector of Factories, 28, Broadway House, London, W.1.

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ASSISTANT WANTED, seeks Assistantship, View to partnership or succession, ineligible, ex-army medico, private, not rural, mid-wifery.—[Address: Room 304, B.M.J. Advertising Office.]

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