

Where Ignorance Is Dangerous

By J. M. Thompson, M. D., Assistant Director First Aid, Water Safety, and Accident Prevention Service, American National Red Cross.

In no accident emergency is there greater need for prompt and effective action than in the case of serious bleeding. Loss of half of the blood of the body is fatal, and the loss is sometimes rapid.

Impelled by such knowledge the would-be samaritan is inclined to act in accord with the urge to "do something quickly." Yet here, where time is of the essence, it is most vitally important to do the right thing. Assistance must be effective as well as prompt.

In comparison with actual performances of the untrained in cases of hemorrhage, the yarn about Pat, who put a tourniquet around Mike's neck to prevent his bleeding to death from a cut on the chin, is neither so funny nor so far-fetched as it may sound.

Virtually everyone, it seems, is tourniquet conscious. Ask any one of a dozen untrained in First Aid: "What would you do to prevent serious bleeding?" and you will invariably get the prompt and assured response: "Use a tourniquet."

Unfortunately, that is not invariably the right answer; and even in cases where it is the right answer, adequate knowledge and training of the kind readily obtainable through Red Cross First Aid courses is essential. Instances are numerous in which the victim's condition has been aggravated or his death made certain by well-meaning but bungling use of this service.

Such instances include use of the tourniquet in the wrong place (sometimes even on the wrong side of the wound); application of insufficient pressure, which may augment the bleeding; constant application of pressure for too long a time, which may cause gangrene to set in; and the use of wire, rope, or other material unsuitable for a tourniquet, which may so seriously injure the member that amputation is necessary.

Adequate knowledge of First Aid can be had only by means of competent instruction and training, but the fact should be mentioned that a tourniquet, unless properly applied, is a dangerous instrument, and that it should not be used if bleeding can be readily checked otherwise. In brief, the tourniquet is useful only in cases of bleeding from an injury of one of the limbs, and there are only two places where it can be effectively applied:

1. Around the upper arm about a hand's breadth below the armpit;
2. Around the thigh about the same distance below the groin.

The quickest and most convenient method of stopping the flow of blood from an external wound, regardless of its location, is by means of hand pressure applied between the injury and the heart at the proper one of the six points where the main arteries lie close to a bone. Knowledge of

SAILORS LEARN METALWORKING



Enlisted men in the U. S. Navy and Naval Reserve have the opportunity to learn more than fifty different trades and vocations. This schooling, worth hundreds of dollars, is free, and the sailors are paid their regular Navy pay while learning.

One of the most popular trades chosen by the bluejacket is metalworking. Pictured here are two enlisted men receiving instruction in acetylene welding from a qual-

ified Navy instructor. Courses included at the metalworker's school are blacksmithing, oxy-acetylene welding, arc welding and cutting, coppersmithing, sheetmetalworking, general metalsmithing and boilermaking.

Any ambitious and patriotic young man will be given the chance to qualify for one of the Navy trade schools if he enlists for service in Uncle Sam's new "Two-Ocean" Navy.

The exact location of these pressure points is, of course, essential. The use of such digital pressure recommends itself because it requires no equipment and because it answers the purpose immediately and pending whatever additional procedure may be necessary.

Bleeding from some wounds can be stopped by the use of a dressing or compress, which is the name given to material applied directly over the wound. The material most commonly used for this purpose is gauze, which is preferable because it is absorbent and does not exclude the air. It is of the utmost importance that the compress be not only clean in the ordinary sense but that it be free of germs, which is to say it must be sterile. Use of the compress alone is seldom sufficient to prevent serious bleeding, but it is helpful in causing the blood to clot and is often desirable in connection with digital pressure or the tourniquet.

It should be apparent from this brief discussion of the subject that although the tourniquet, when properly applied, is invaluable under certain circumstances, it is by no means a panacea for the prevention of bleeding, that a knowledge of its use is essential, and that other procedure, which likewise requires a degree of special knowledge and training, is very frequently indicated.

Conservation Rates Announced By Floyd

Rates of payment for planting within special crop allotments under the 1942 Agricultural Conservation Program of the AAA have been announced, according to E. Y. Floyd, State AAA executive assistant at

and seven-tenths of a cent per pound for burley tobacco.

Payment for complying with acreage allotments will be made in ratio to the degree to which soil-building goals are carried out on the farm.

In lieu of total soil-depleting allotments established under past programs, the 1942 program provides

that a specified percentage of crop-land be devoted to soil-building and soil-conserving uses.

This provision in the 1942 program, bolstered by continuation in 1943 of the increased funds set aside in 1941 for carrying out soil-building practices, is a forward step in the continued improvement of the coun-

try's soil," Floyd said.

The AAA officer stressed the importance of farmers planning their programs this year in line with defense needs. The conservation program is aimed at increasing production of specific crops needed for the



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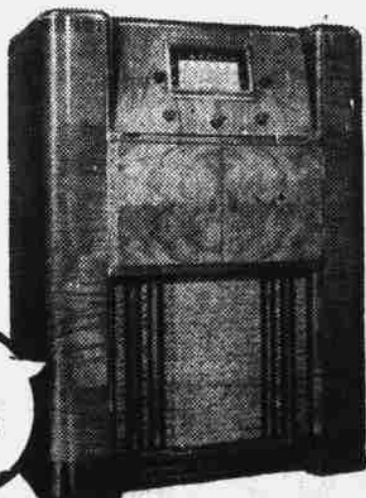
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