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SOME FACTS CONCERNING CHEMICAL WARFARE.

BY JOSEPH F. PADULA.

In view of the fact that so much is being said against the use of chemicals as a very "inhumane" weapon, it would not be amiss to show how much harm poison gases did during the last war as compared with other methods of warfare. Poisonous gases by their nature do not maim, mutilate or cause the body to be injured beyond recognition as is the case with high explosives and bullets.

The most poisonous gas used during the last war was mustard gas. In certain concentrations it is lethal. This gas produced the greatest number of gas casualties, and yet the chance of a soldier being saved even though mustardized is greater than that of the high explosive casualty.

During the last war the American Army in France experienced the effect of

gas warfare at its height. There were 199,438 American casualties due to shells and bullets. Of these 46,659—roughly one in every four—died. Concerning gas casualties, we had 74,779, of which 1400 died. This shows that the man who was gassed had about 10 times more chance of living than the poor fellow who was mutilated by high explosive. The significance of chemical warfare materials is shown by their use during the war. The Germans used 50% of explosives and 50% of gas munitions in 1918, while toward the close of the war the U. S. Army filled 40% of their artillery shells with gases.

Reports of previous wars show that of 100 men wounded with weapons, 22 remained dead on the field, while, of the remainder, 8 died from wounds, thus showing a mortality figure of 30%. With chemical warfare materials different figures show for the various Armies:

American Army	2.4% Mortality
German Army	3—
French Army	2.9%
English Army	3.3%

Comparing these figures with those obtained from earlier warfare materials, it is conclusive that the introduction of chemical warfare has lowered the mortality and the cruelty of warfare to a tenth of its previous figure.

The history of warfare has shown that ancient and even mediæval battles were more deadly and less humane, while from the above figures it may be seen that modern warfare is becoming less lethal and more humane.

In spite of the above facts we have many pacifists and sentimentalists who are doing their best to prohibit the use of gas warfare. This was especially true of the time previous to the Washington Conference. Are we to base our conclusions of military tactics on facts or sentiment? If we are to prohibit gas warfare, let us first endeavor to abolish war altogether.

SOLID PETROXOLIN AS A BASE FOR PERU BALSAM OINTMENT.*

BY J. L. BREDAHL.

Balsam of Peru is nearly always employed in the form of an ointment. The universal difficulty in getting a satisfactory base for Ointment of Balsam of Peru prompts me to write this short article.

A smooth ointment can be made by incorporating Peru Balsam into petrolatum. After standing, however, the ointment separates, due to the insolubility of the Balsam in the hydrocarbon base.

The base generally prescribed is lanolin or lard. And here is where the pharmacist's trouble begins. Balsam of Peru is not soluble in these fatty bases and as a result separation of the ointment takes place which at once ruins the product. It is impossible to make a permanently smooth ointment having a good consistency when lard or lanolin is used as the base.

It has been suggested that lard or lanolin may be used as a base for Ointment of Peru Balsam without difficulty if the latter be first emulsified with a small quantity of water. This sounds reasonable but it does not work out in practice.

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* Section on Practical Pharmacy and Dispensing, A. PH. A., Philadelphia meeting, 1926.