

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Storage and Sterilisation of Nylon Thread

SIR,—As nylon thread is coming into use in hospitals as a suture material, we feel that hospital pharmacists in particular will be interested in the following experiments which were conducted in order to ascertain the most suitable storage and sterilising medium for nylon thread. The experiments were concerned solely with the effect on the suturing properties of the thread and not with the relative efficiency of the medium as a bactericidal agent.

Twisted nylon thread of gauge No. 4, cut into lengths of 14 inches, were used. The thread was subjected to the action of the medium for 48 hours. It was then rinsed in saline solution and tested for tensile strength. The results were as follows:—

SOLUTIONS IN WATER	TENSILE STRENGTH LB.	SOLUTIONS IN INDUSTRIAL METHYLATED SPIRIT	TENSILE STRENGTH LB.
Bradasol, 1 per cent. ... ..	9½		
Cetyltrimethylammonium bromide 1 per cent. ... ..	9½	Cetyltrimethylammonium bromide 0·1 per cent.... ..	9
Phenylmercuric nitrate 0·002 per cent.	9½		
Mercuric iodide 0·1 per cent. ... ..	9½	Mercuric iodide 0·1 per cent. ... ..	9
Mercuric cyanide 0·1 per cent. ... ..	9½		
Mercuric chloride 0·1 per cent. ... ..	9½	Mercuric chloride 0·1 per cent. ... ..	9½
Boiling Water ... ..	9½		
Water Control ... ..	9½	Alcohol control... ..	9
Air Control ... ..	9½		

It will be seen that the differences are not significant. Lysol was not used in the experiment as preliminary tests had indicated that phenolic substances altered the nylon thread which became leathery and had a greatly reduced tensile strength.

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