

FIRST AID

0. PREFACE

0.01 This addendum supplements and revises Section 010-100-001, Issue 3. It provides instruction for use of the Venex Snake Bite Kit and information on the use of B.Y.'s Medicated Ointment for the prevention and relief from poison oak, ivy and sumac.

5. BITES AND STINGS

Add the following information to Paragraph 5.02 (c) (3):

The Venex Snake Bite Kit should be used when available. Instructions for its use are as follows:

Break antiseptic swab with fingers and paint bitten area.

Remove scalpel from bottle and make a cross-cut incision 1/2 by 1/2 inch at each fang mark or connecting the two fang punctures, avoiding large veins and arteries in superficial locations, such as the wrist. The cut must be from 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch deep - deep enough to insure free bleeding "thru the rind." If a vein is cut, control the bleeding by pressure with a finger.

Place mouth of syringe over cuts with the plunger down. Hold mouth of syringe tight against skin and pull plunger back but NOT out of syringe. This will suck out the poison and blood. Empty syringe and repeat. If you find that you are not getting blood in syringe, loosen constricting bandage for five seconds and retighten. Continue using syringe, as very little fluid will be drawn out during first hour. Swelling will show inside three or four hours and a larger quantity of fluid will be drawn out.

Remember, three drops of venom will kill, so if only one drop is extracted during the first hour a life may be saved.

USING ON HANDS, WRISTS OR ARMS WHEN ALONE

The syringe is equipped with a finger loop which allows one hand operation by placing the index finger in the loop and holding the syringe with thumb and fingers. Or if preferred, hold syringe over cut and operate by holding finger loop with the teeth and pulling back.

If bitten between the fingers or on any part of the body which does not permit the mouth of the glass syringe to obtain a tight seal, place the rubber cork

in the mouth of the syringe and extract venom through the hole in the cork. If the kit is equipped with a rubber attachment tube instead of a cork, place the attachment in the mouth of the syringe and extract venom through the tube. If pulse is weak, pour contents of a bottle of Aromatic Spirits of Ammonia into paper cup, fill cup with water and give patient to sip. Do not use alcoholic stimulants. Hot black coffee may be used if Aromatic Spirits of Ammonia is exhausted.

As soon as possible get patient to nearest doctor but do not allow patient to exert himself or walk unless absolutely necessary.

The use of antivenin serum, where it is available, is also recommended in addition to this treatment. This should not be administered, however, except under the supervision of a physician.

The Venex Snake Bite Kit can also be used in treating the poisonous types of insect bites such as tarantula, black spider, etc. The procedure and precautions necessary in such treatment are exactly similar to those noted above for poisonous snake bites.

Change Paragraph 13.15 to read:

13.15 Plant Poisoning

- (a) Types - Ivy, oak and sumac. (See Figs. 15, 16 and 17).
- (b) Prevention - Learn to recognize these plants in their various forms at all seasons of the year and avoid contact with them at all times. When in a locality where they are commonly found, avoid exposing any more of the body than is necessary by wearing sleeves and trousers rolled down. Even the smoke from burning plants may be harmful; avoid it whenever possible.

When exposure is expected, apply a protective film of B.Y.'s Medicated Ointment to exposed parts of hands, face and body. Repeat application after bathing.

- (c) Symptoms - After contact with these plants, the skin becomes red and swollen and itches violently. Soon small blisters begin to form, which may unite into large blisters. Frequently these become infected. Fever and general discomfort may result.

(d) First Aid

- (1) Wash exposed area of skin with hot water and strong laundry soap. Repeat four or five times. Do not scrub with a brush or rough materials.
- (2) If a rash develops, apply to the affected part a paste made by heating strong laundry soap and a little water to about the consistency of lard. This paste should be applied about one quarter of an inch thick over the entire area involved, allowed to dry and left on overnight.
- (3) Calamine lotion or Epsom Salts solution may also be used. (See Red Cross Textbooks for further details.)
- (4) If these measures are not effective see a doctor.
- (5) An alternate method of treating exposed areas is to apply B.Y.'s Medicated Ointment. It should be rubbed in thoroughly and applied several times daily. If a rash appears, repeat application until rash disappears.