

CHAPTER 10

OTHER EMERGENCIES

Pain in the Abdomen

1. A very bad pain in the region of the stomach may be caused by appendicitis, ulcers and the like.
2. **Treatment.** Lay the casualty down in the most comfortable position. Do not give drinks or food. Do not give any opening medicine. If he is thirsty, moisten his mouth. Get him to a doctor quickly.

Burns and Scalds of the Eye, and Grit in the Eye

3. Burns and scalds of the eye *can cause blindness and are very serious.*
4. **Treatment.** Wash out the eye thoroughly with clean water. Tilt the casualty's head with the injured eye outwards, and gently pour in water for 10-15 minutes, allowing the water to run away from the good eye. Next cover the eye with a pad or clean handkerchief and bandage, and get him off to a doctor. Warn the casualty not to rub his eye, as this will make it worse.

The Ear

5. If a man gets something solid in his ear, never try to get it out. This is a job for the doctor. If he has an insect in the ear, put in several drops of any pure oil, but not paraffin oil. The oil will kill the insect and it may float out of the ear. If it does not, get the casualty to a doctor.

Burst Ear Drum

6. The ear drum may be burst by gunfire or a blow on the ear. The casualty will have severe earache. He will be deaf. Blood may run from the ear.
7. **Treatment.** Cover the ear with a clean dressing or handkerchief and incline his head towards the injured side. Do not plug the ear. Warn the casualty not to blow his nose. Get him to medical aid.

Animal Bites

8. A dog bite is a dirty wound. Apply a dressing. In Great Britain dogs do not suffer from rabies (hydrophobia). Overseas, a dog may have rabies—and dog bites overseas need special care. Don't stop the bleeding. This will help wash out the germs. Wash the wound with soap and water and put on a dressing. Get the casualty to a doctor. Catch the animal if you can, but be careful not to be bitten yourself. Do not shoot it. The animal can then be tested for rabies. This is very important.

Insect Bites and Stings

9. Insect bites such as flea bites, gnat bites and the like often cause a swelling. These bites often irritate and become septic. Apply antihistamine cream. For bee stings, bicarbonate of soda or toothpaste helps to ease the pain of the sting. For wasp stings, use vinegar.

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10. If the sting is in the mouth or throat, give the casualty a piece of ice to suck, or put a cloth soaked in cold water on his neck. Most important, remove the casualty to hospital immediately.

Frost-bite

11. Frost-bite occurs in very cold climates, or even in Britain if it is cold enough. The exposed parts are affected, *eg* fingers, toes, face and ears. The parts feel dead and numb. They look white and stiff at first. Later they become reddish-blue and swollen.

12. **Treatment.** Use body heat to bring the affected parts to life again. Put frost-bitten fingers under the armpits. Put frost-bitten toes under another person's body. Put a warm hand on a frost-bitten patch of the face. Don't rub with snow. Don't use a hot water bottle. Handle all frost-bitten parts very gently. If the skin is broken apply a dressing. Treat the casualty for shock. Warm the trunk, but not the extremities.

Blast Injuries

13. People near explosions often suffer from blast. They are usually very shaken and in a state of collapse. Even though you cannot see an injury, the bowels and lungs may be ruptured.

14. **Treatment.** Treat the casualty for shock. Don't give fluids. Just moisten the mouth with a wet cloth.

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