

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,
P.O. BOX 5013,
WELLINGTON.

7 May 1973.

CLINICAL SERVICES LETTER NO. 125

TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS

Dear Doctor,

RESUSCITATION OF THE APPARENTLY DROWNED

At a recent meeting of the Department of Health's Advisory Committee on Resuscitation several matters of interest to medical practitioners were discussed.

External Cardiac Massage

When dealing with the apparently drowned, or with electrocuted persons, the committee re-emphasised the importance of maintaining a clear airway and applying expired air resuscitation (rescue breathing), rather than spending valuable time on external cardiac massage. The latter is potentially dangerous, and should be undertaken only by medical practitioners or adequately qualified para-medical personnel.

Films

Of those available, the Admiralty films:

- "Breathing for Others"
- "Seconds Count"
- "Closed Chest Cardiac Massage"

were recommended as the most suitable for instructional purposes. These films may be obtained from the film libraries of the Departments of Health or Labour, or from the National Film Library (Education Department) or the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Equipment

Concern was expressed at the plethora of sophisticated resuscitative equipment held by various societies and bodies. For its effective operation this equipment requires continual and adequate maintenance and knowledge and experience of a kind which is seldom available when its use is required.

Expired air resuscitation can be readily learned and is always available.

DRUG TARIFF 1970

When the Drug Tariff is next reprinted it is intended to delete the items listed below. If you consider that any of these should be retained would you please advise this division.

Alginic acid	Ipecacuanha extract, liquid, B.P.
Aluminium chloride	Iron phosphate, B.P.C.
Anise oil	Isopropyl myristate
Antimony potassium tartrate	Lactose hypodermic tablets
Antimony sodium tartrate	Lactose suppositories
Benzaldehyde	Magnesium stearate
Benzaldehyde spirit, B.P.C.	Male fern extract, B.P.
Benzalkonium bromide solution, B.P.C.	Male fern extract capsules
Chloramine	Maleic acid
Cinnamic acid	Maltose
Cinnamon oil	Mandelic acid
Coriander oil	Manganese sulphate
Dill oil	Mersalyl acid
Dodecyl gallate	Nutmeg oil
Effervescent powder, compound, B.P.C.	Octyl gallate
Effervescent powder, double strength, compound, B.P.C.	Octyl nitrite
Emetine and bismuth iodide	Orange oil, terpeneless, B.P.C.
Eosin	Potassium nitrate
Ergot, B.P.C.	Propyl gallate
Ethyl oleate	Quassia
Ethylenediamine hydrate	Rapeseed oil
Eugenol	Raspberry juice, concentrated, B.P.C.
Ferric glycerophosphate	Sesame oil
Ferric sulphate solution, B.P.C.	Sodium acetate
Gentian	Sodium acid citrate
Hyoscyamus extract, liquid, B.P.	Sodium alginate
Invert syrup, B.P.C.	Sodium antimonylgluconate
Ipecacuanha, prepared, B.P.	Sodium carbonate
	Sodium carbonate anhydrous
	Sodium nitrate
	Sodium nitroprusside

Sodium perborate
Sodium polymetaphosphate
Sodium stibogluconate
Spearmint oil
Squill extract, liquid, B.P.C.
Sterculia
Stibophen
Storax, prepared, B.P.C.

Stramonium extract, liquid, B.P.
Terpineol
Theobromine
Tryparsamide
Kaolin powder compound, B.N.F.
1968
Cod liver oil emulsion, B.N.F. 1968

Yours faithfully,

A. W. S. Thompson.

(A. W. S. Thompson)
Director, Division of Clinical Services.

AGE ON CHILDREN'S PRESCRIPTIONS

In Clinical Services Letter No. 118 of 9 October 1972 we recommended that the age of a child under 12 years be shown on a prescription. It seems that very few medical practitioners are doing this.

If the age of a child does not appear on a prescription, the pharmacist may have no warning, in case of error, that an excessive dose has been prescribed. On occasion this has had fatal consequences. We feel sure that most doctors will see this as a valuable safety measure and hope they will adopt it.

GENERAL PRACTICE VACANCY

A general practitioner is required at Otautau, 32 miles from Invercargill. Practice population approximately 3,000. The doctor would also service the maternity hospital, with average of 90-100 births per annum.

Recently erected surgery and some heavy equipment available for rental or purchase. Assistance available to purchase own home.

Otautau has a population of 1,000 serving a flourishing farming district with forestry and modern sawmill as secondary industries.

Details from Mr J. A. R. Walker, Acting Secretary, Otautau Doctors Committee, P.O. Box 5, Otautau.