

The main point to bear in mind is that the air is to be excluded from the affected part as quickly as possible. This may be done by dredging the part thickly with flour—if the skin is not broken—and not disturbing it for some time.

Any vegetable oil—such as salad, sweet, or linseed—may be used with advantage, a rag being soaked with it and used to cover the wound. A very good application is made by mixing equal parts of linseed oil and lime water, forming “carron oil.”

Finally, it cannot be too strongly impressed that all clothing covering a burn must be removed with the utmost care. Never try to withdraw the injured limb, but cut the clothing away—in small pieces, if necessary—so that the injured surface may not be more damaged. Never hold a burn in front of the fire, according to the popular practice; this only increases the injury. Have your oil or other application ready for immediate use as soon as the clothing has been removed.—*Scientific American*.

American Serums Abroad

The Rockefeller Institute, of New York, has been presented by the Pasteur Institute of France with a replica in bronze of the bust of Louis Pasteur, in recognition of aid rendered in the recent epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis in France. It is reported there that the mortality was reduced from 80 per cent. or more to about 15 per cent. by the use of the serum furnished by the Rockefeller Institute. Professor Calmette, on his return to Lille from the International Congress on Tuberculosis, took with him some of the serum, and later large supplies were sent to him, Professor Vetter and Professor Roux, so that the Rockefeller serum is the basis for most of the reports which have appeared in the French journals. Flexner himself, in a report of 712 cases (all ages), gives a mortality of 31.4 per cent. Of course, the earlier the serum is injected the better in the general results. It is obtained from horses immunized by injections derived from many strains of the meningococcus. It takes four or five months before the serum of a horse is strong enough for use. The only conditions made so far by the Rockefeller Institute in distributing the product are that full reports of cases treated should be returned, and that the diagnosis of cerebro-spinal meningitis should be confirmed by bacteriological examination. The serum was first employed here therapeutically about three years ago. Its use has since spread to Germany,