

SCIENCE LIGHTENS DEATH ROLL IN NORMANDY

Ambulances behind the lines in Normandy have transported many of the wounded (^{who number} 23,000 in the first 15 days)

on the early stages of the journey to hospital.

Two modern treatments, Penicillin and blood transfusion, have cheated death in thousands of cases. In ambulances and on the actual field of battle, many transfusions have taken place.

To the legion of men and women all over the country who have given their blood it is highly gratifying to know that ~~they~~ have given life to so many brave men, ~~who would otherwise have died.~~ Sent to blood banks, as they are called, Most of the blood was processed into plasma; that is, the residue after the corpuscles and fat are removed. Plasma keeps indefinitely; ~~it~~ can be given to men of any blood group, and in many cases ~~it's~~ as effective as full blood. In one day a ton of plasma was flown to Normandy by a single plane of RAF Transport Command.

Returning from France those planes bring wounded men to hospital. So aviation is another factor in the speedy recovery of the wounded.

Gangrene, from which millions have perished on the battlefields of past wars, is conquered nowadays by Penicillin.

Scientists are manufacturing this wonder-drug as fast as they can, ~~to meet the demands of the war on all fronts.~~ Penicillin comes from a mould, like the growth on bad cheese. Spores of that mould are put into flasks, to feed on ~~the~~ a sugary liquid, in which, after nine days, penicillin is contained in solution. The liquid is drained off for

~~Further treatment~~

further treatment. The process of separating the penicillin from the liquid is involved. Various solvents and chloroform have to be used. In these scenes the chloroform is shown being added.

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Eventually a stage is reached when the penicillin is highly concentrated in water and the chloroform can be drained off, leaving only the drug-solutions in the container.

The phials containing the solution are then put in a freezing machine, which revolves them at high speed, throwing the frozen and dried penicillin onto the inner walls of the glass. In that process ice crystals are also deposited on the sides of the phials. Finally the ice is evaporated, leaving in each phial a feather weight quantity of penicillin, just enough to cure a badly infected wound. To penicillin and the 1944 ~~war~~ technique of blood transfusion thousands of happy, convalescing soldiers owe their lives, When it is all over ~~the~~ they will come back to the family circle. Science has saved them from death.