

Glycalepol.

J. T. Jackson, Esq., M.Sc., writing in *The Superintendent*, of August, 1929, states that the pain which sometimes follows the administration of alepol can be alleviated by the addition of glycerine to the "Alepol" solution.

The glycerine used must be pure double distilled glycerol. Ordinary glycerine contains acid as an impurity which is detrimental.

Glycerine is present in a combined state in Hydnocarpus Oil as the glyceride of hydnocarpic and other fatty acids. In the preparation of "alepol" (mainly sodium hydnocarpate), the glycerol has been removed from the oil. Glycerine, therefore, suggested itself as a useful addition to "alepol" solutions, if not a necessary one. The addition of glycerine does not appreciably increase the cost of the solution. It is possible that in addition to alleviating pain on administration of "alepol," the presence of glycerine may assist in the absorption of the "alepol," but this has not yet been proved.

"Alepol" solutions containing glycerine have been named "Glycalepol" to differentiate them from the ordinary alepol solution. Comparative tests are being made to see whether Glycalepol has any advantage over the ordinary alepol solution in the treatment of leprosy, in addition to the reduction of the pain factor.

Preparation of "Glycalepol." The solution found useful for subcutaneous injection by infiltration is as follows :—

For 100 cc. of solution :

Alepol	...	...	...	...	...	3 grams.
Pure Double Distilled Glycerol	...			...		2.5 c.c.
Liq. Carbolic Acid P.B.	...			...		0.5 c.c.

The strength of the glycerine can be increased.

In preparing, for instance, 16 fl. ozs. of "Glycalepol" of the above strength ; take 15 fl. ozs. of distilled water and add to this 38 minims of liq. carbolic acid. Mix and then add of glycerine 190 minims (3 fl. dr. 10 min.) and mix again. The alepol (210 grains) is now added to this solution, which is stirred until the whole has dissolved. Finally the solution is made up to 16 fl. ozs. by the addition of distilled water. The solution is now sterilised in the usual way. It is very important that distilled water should be used throughout.

Items of News from the Field.

Expressions of opinion from the Bishops of Masasi and Central Tanganyika :—

“ There is no doubt whatever that the present policy of allowing voluntary segregation instead of the compulsory segregation attempted in the past is the one reason why lepers previously hidden in the villages busily infecting their friends and relations, and not daring to ask for any treatment, are now gradually coming under medical care. I believe that the number still to be reached more than equals the number under treatment.”

“ Your present help will make the lot of the lepers ever so much more comfortable and bring cheer into their lives. A new day is dawning for the lepers, and the support of your Association will be a big factor in ushering in that day.”

A worker in Tanganyika writes :—

“ This country is thinly populated, the people scattered over a vast area, but many lepers are there. And yet before we got the ‘Alepol’ we did not see them ; but now they are visible, and are coming forward with their deep hopeless eyes, asking if it is true that there still is hope for the n.”

The following is an extract from a letter from India :—

“ If you can imagine a Hospital, or Home, full of patients who have good grounds for assurance that by medical skill they have been saved from certain death, then you may have some conception of the mental attitude of our people here. Naturally it is very exhilarating to live and work in such an atmosphere and I enjoy my work better every day.”

Cheering news from a worker in the Belgian Congo :—

“ I have been treating for the past ten weeks twenty lepers. There are already three of these that are practically clear of the early markings of the disease.”