

Technique in General Practice

The Seathorne Steam Syringe Sterilizer

This portable Syringe Sterilizer has been evolved by a member of the College to fulfil the need for a simple, foolproof, portable sterilizer for general practitioners and district nurses. The principle of the appliance is as follows:—

Container and Detachable Pan

The metal container fits snugly into the detachable pan which, when three-quarters filled with water, is placed on any hot-plate, Aga, electric, gas ring, primus stove, etc. The shutter at the bottom of the container and the one in the lid are then opened to allow steam to circulate through the container and around the syringes. A short pipe arises from the vent of the lower shutter to prevent leakage of water of condensation when carrying the sterilizer around, and it also serves to concentrate a jet of steam onto the lower plate of the syringe rack which acts as a baffle and thus circulates the steam.

The syringes, which may be glass barrelled or plastic, and the needles, hang in a double rack, the plates of which are lined by steam-proof rubber to prevent blunting of the needles on insertion, and to prevent cracking of the glass barrels of the syringes. This double rack holds both syringe and needles in place and prevents rocking. The syringe rack can be easily withdrawn by the handle in the centre to allow for the pouring away of any water or condensation which may have been collected at the bottom of the container—a procedure which may be necessary before sterilizing every third or fourth time, and only takes seconds to do.

Sterilization

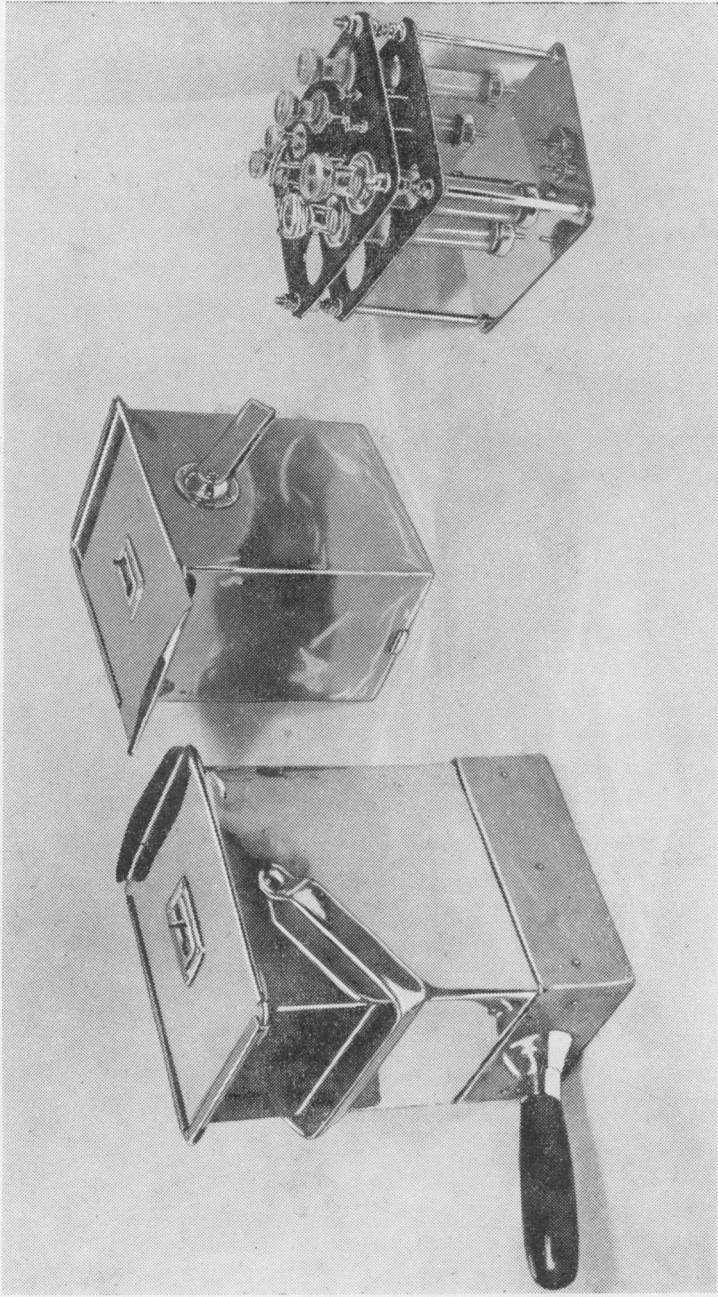
It is found in actual practice that complete sterilization is obtained in a very short time, e.g. 5 minutes if hot water is put into the pan, and that as soon as a column of steam is emitted from the vent in the lid then sterilization is complete for all ordinary purposes in general practice.

When sterilization is achieved, the container is lifted off the pan by the movable handle, the two shutters are closed, and the sterilizer is then ready for use in the surgery or by the patient's bedside. The base is wide enough for the sterilizer to remain firm and upright on the floor of the car.

The simplicity of the design and principle make it easy in operation and it is found to be a great time saver.

Alternatives

Two racks for syringes are available for the sterilizer, one to carry two 2 cc., two 5 cc., two 10 cc. and one 20 cc.; the other to carry nine 2 cc. and one 5 c.c.



Obtainable from SOLE MANUFACTURERS:
SEATHORNE STEEL CONSTRUCTORS LTD., PARK WORKS, MEMORIAL AVENUE, WITHERNSEA, E. YORKS.