

TRANSFUSION BY 'FLYING SQUAD'

Issue No. 1084..21..7..1941
Title: Disputed Passage.
Track: Ditto.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: Ditto.

Miners were among the first to volunteer in response to the Princess Royal's appeal for Blood Donors. An ambulance was on hand as the shift came up from a hard spell at the coal face. Yorkshire was asked to provide 100,000 people willing to give their blood to be used in transfusions to air-raid casualties.

(EAR) A tiny drop from the lobe of the ear is taken first of all. When tested it shows to which of the four blood-groups the volunteer belongs. That's all for the time being, unless they wish to give blood there and then, as several miners elected to do. In ten-to-fifteen minutes a pint was drawn from each man. There's no danger in it to anyone in ordinary health. All that's necessary is to rest for half-an-hour afterwards and take a good drink.

All the blood taken goes to storage centres called blood-banks, where the contents of each separate bottle are put to the group test. There are four kinds of human blood. Only the universal sort can be transfused into any body; the other three must be given to people whose own group corresponds.

Even in cold storage, blood will only keep a few days, so the arrival date is carefully noted. All bottles used, in every part of the process, are thoroughly sterilised.

(SV NURSE TAKES OUT) Most of the blood that comes here is converted into plasma, which is the residue after the corpuscles and fat have been removed. One method of obtaining it is to leave fresh blood to stand, and then strain it through a special filter.

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(SV FILL BOTTLE) The great virtue of plasma is that it keeps indefinitely and cures cases of shock as effectively as fresh blood. So from the blood-banks hundreds of bottles of plasma are rushed in specially equipped vans to the scene of the blitz.

Shock causes chemical changes in the body which reduce the fluid-content of the blood. Bad air-raid cases are often fatal. Now, hundreds of lives have been saved by the new method of taking plasma to the victim and giving a transfusion in the ambulance, on the spot. Many people would not have lived if they had had to wait to be taken to hospital first. Blood-donors render great service to their fellow men.
