

## MEDICINE

# New Life-Saving Bandage

► A NEW life-saving bandage for use by first aiders rescuing air raid victims has been developed by two English doctors, Dr. David H. Patey and Dr. J. Douglas Robertson, of Middlesex Hospital. Details of how to apply the bandage appear in the latest issue of the *British Medical Journal* received in the United States (Aug. 22).

The patients on whom the bandage is to be used are those who have had arms or legs pinned down by a beam or other heavy objects for hours before release. These patients may look surprisingly well when first dug out of the debris but some hours later become gravely ill from shock, develop symptoms of kidney failure and often die.

The condition has been labelled "crush syndrome," but the English doctors think compression syndrome more accurately describes the condition. The leg or arm that has been pinned down becomes very hard and swollen with dropsy soon after its release and is partly or completely paralyzed from nerve compression.

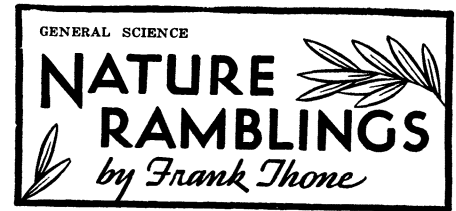
The condition can be remedied and the patient's life saved, Drs. Patey and Robertson believe, if the first aid team applies an elastic web bandage immediately after the beam or other heavy

object has been removed. The object of the bandaging is to prevent development of the dropsical swelling and get rid of any fluid that has already accumulated.

Two patients were successfully treated on this principle by application of pressure to the limb by a blood pressure cuff and a pavaex motor. This treatment was given in the hospital, but the doctors think the treatment should be started at the scene of the accident and since the number of pavaex motors is limited, they worked out the idea of a suitable bandage to apply the life-saving pressure.

Mere advice "to apply a firm bandage" is not enough and adhesive, rubber, domette and crepe bandages are unsuitable, the doctors state. When the elastic web bandage is applied from below up, stretching it to double its unstretched length, it produces exactly the right degree of pressure. To help the first aider judge the degree of stretch as he applies the bandage, it is marked off in one-half inch lengths. Stretching each of these to one inch, a distance easily judged accurately by most people, gives the right degree of pressure.

*Science News Letter, October 3, 1942*



### Publication Delayed

► IF YOU have a printing job to be done and think the printer is a bit slow, don't grab the telephone right away and start squawking. Think of Brother Antonio. In 1628 he turned in a big book manuscript—and the publication job has only now been completed.

The great encyclopedic work on the wonders of the New World, written by Fray Antonio Vázquez de Espinosa, long reckoned as one of the most famous of "lost books," has finally been published here by the Smithsonian Institution as vol. 102 of its Miscellaneous Collections. It was lost for a long time—lost where it is hardest of all to find any particular book because it is surrounded by thousands of other books: lost in a great library. In this particular case it was the Vatican Library, where an American scholar, Dr. Charles Upson Clark, finally discovered the manuscript and the partially printed sections. It is at last available, in English translation, for anthropologists, historians, geographers and scholars of all angles of interest, under the title, *Compendium and Description of the West Indies*.

Fray Antonio, a very energetic, inquiring sort of person, spent the greater part of his adult life in South and Central America. He recorded everything he saw, quizzed missionaries, soldiers, officials, traders, and made judicious notes of all he learned. At last growing old, he went back home to write up and publish his tremendous accumulation of information. Unfortunately he died before much of his work got into print, and for three centuries scholars have known of his writings mainly through quotations by his contemporaries.

Fray Antonio made some mistakes

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