



Arts & Humanities
Research Council

'Burns: The Evolving Wound'

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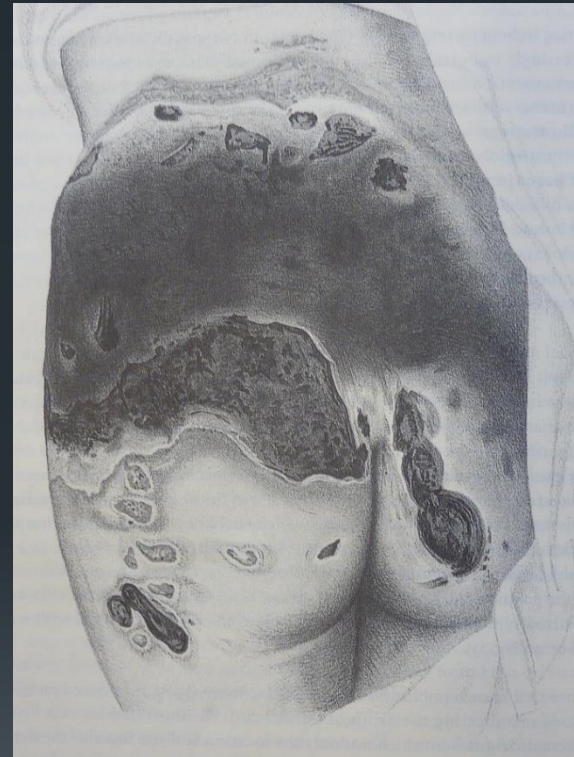
Introduction

- History of burns, 1800-2000
- British identity
- Professional and patient
- Distinct wound
- Concept of burn changed
- ‘Multidisciplinary nature’; team approach unique
- Birth of the clinical team



Topical treatment

- Focus on treating surface
- Few accidents greater variety of treatments
- Treatments compared
 - 'serious aquosities'; treatment
- Carron oil (1759); AgNO₃
- Dressings; tight vs loose
- Dermatologist and surgeon



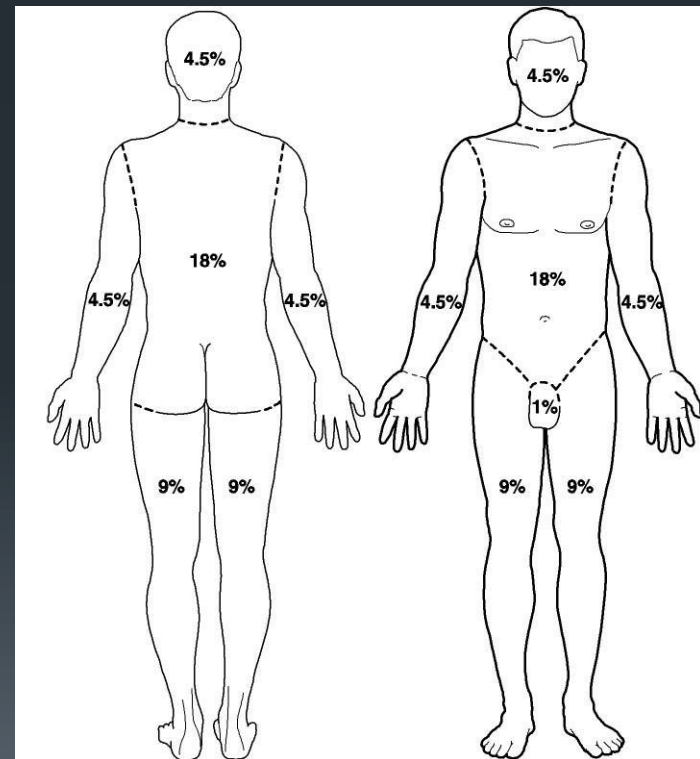
Burns: more than skin deep

- Evolving wound; all systems respond; 'know burns...'
- T. B. Curling (1842); ulcers
- Effect on nerves; depth
- Respiratory tract; pneumonia
- 'silent flooding in' (1920s)
- Drown in fluids; 'take blood'
- Blood replacement WWII



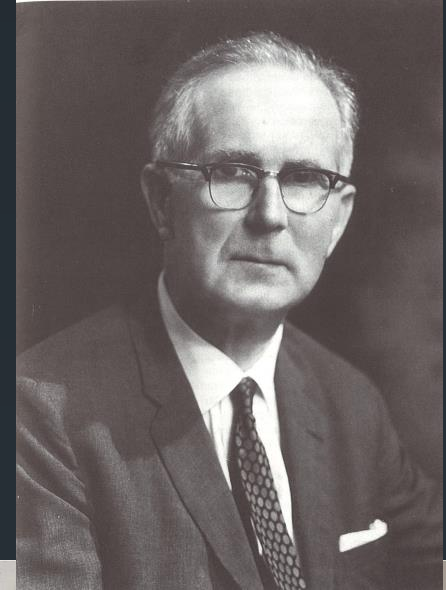
The wound that poisons

- Release of toxic substances
- 'toxaemia'; toxic shock
- Tannic acid (Davidson)
 - Simple; one step treatment
- Bound toxins; retain fluid
- More general shift of fluids
- F. Underhill; circulatory shock
- BSA calculating fluids
- Mortality postponed



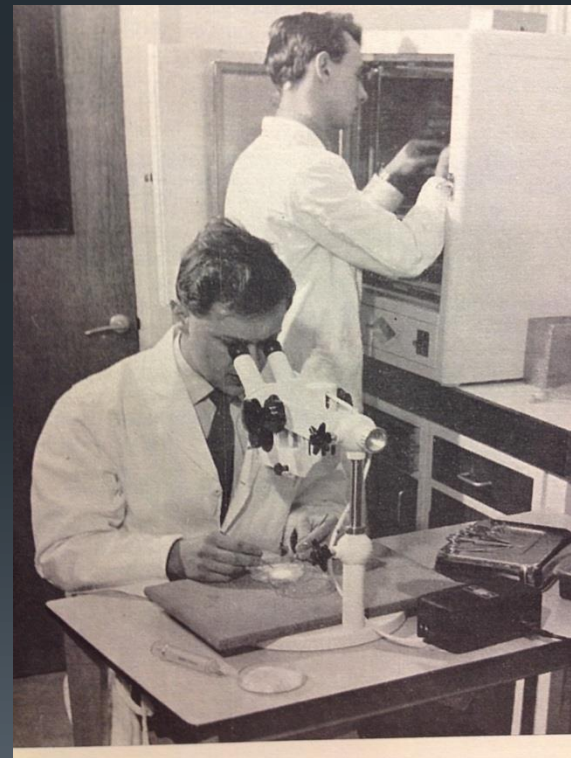
Infected wounds

- Burns patient as danger; transformed into vulnerable
- Glasgow RI; central pivot
- Haemolytic streptococci
- Microbe in air; perfect medium
- Prontosil (1935)
- BAH (1944); infection 5%
- End of odors



Excising the wound

- Eschar does not inhibit fluid loss; generates infection
- Bacteriological work
- Halt riot by removing burn
- Mechanical debridement
- Skin grafting; 'peel to heal'
- Created a new wound



Starve to death, or feed a burn

- Metabolism accelerates wildly; patients starved
- ‘thin diet’ Kentish (1797)
- Extra diets (1871)
- ‘...raging machine’
- Body consumes itself
- Dumps waste (1934)
- 10% BM; impairs immunity
- 30% healing halts

DIET TABLE OF THE LONDON HOSPITAL.				
COMMON DIET.				
	PER DAY.	BREAKFAST.	DINNER.	SUPPER.
Sunday . . .	12 oz. Bread. 14 pint Beer, men. 8 pint ditto, women.	Gruel.	8 oz. Beef, baked.	1 pint Broth.
Monday . .	Ditto.	Gruel.	8 oz. Mutton, with boiled Rice and Potatoes.	1 pint Broth.
Tuesday . .	Ditto.	Gruel.	8 oz. Potatoes, and Soup with Vegetables.	1 pint Broth.
Wednesday .	Ditto.	Gruel.	8 oz. Beef.	1 pint Broth.
Thursday . .	Ditto.	Gruel.	8 oz. Mutton, with boiled Rice or Potatoes.	1 pint Broth.
Friday . . .	Ditto.	Gruel.	8 oz. Beef.	1 pint Broth.
Saturday . .	Ditto.	Gruel.	8 oz. Potatoes, and Soup with Vegetables.	1 pint Broth.
MIDDLE DIET.				
The same as Common Diet, except that 4 oz. of Meat shall be given instead of 8 oz.				
LOW DIET DAILY.				
8 oz. Bread.	Gruel.	Broth.	Gruel or Broth.	
FEVER DIET.				
The same as Low Diet, but without Bread.				
MILK DIET DAILY.				
12 oz. Bread.	Gruel.	1 pint Milk.	1 pint Milk.	
JEWY DIET.				
Four-pence per Day, with Bread and Beer, when on Full or Middle Diet; but when on Low, Milk, or Fever, Diet, no Money.				

Full recovery

- Physiotherapy; limits
 - Splints; contractures
- Disability; disfigurement
- Psychiatrists; social workers
- Two injuries; one physical
- Team spirit; Guinea Pig Club
- Most 'sent on leave'
- Stigma; patient groups (1970s)



Conclusions

- Focus on the burn wound
- Evolving wound
- Topical to psychological
- ‘...takes a team to treat a burn’; expensive
- Mortality decline
- Scars: the new focus

