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NUNS IN NEW ROLE DURING WAR

Ointment for Relief from Burns Important Contribution to Army

Least publicized of the nation's women volunteers, Catholic nuns are filling many new roles in wartime America. Nuns are serving as air raid wardens, operating farm tractors, teaching American youth the science of aeronautics—in addition to their usual tasks of religious instruction, teaching nursing and welfare work.

One of the most important contributions nuns are making is in the field of research studies important to the national effort. This work is being largely concentrated at the Institutum Divi Thomae, scientific research establishment founded by Archbishop John T. McNicholas, at Cincinnati, under the direction of the eminent scientist, Dr. George Sperti.

Sister scientists have helped to develop biodyne ointment, a new "wonder" preparation which has been used with remarkable success by doctors and hospitals throughout the country in the treatment of burns. Expected to prove invaluable in the treatment of soldiers suffering from this type of wound, preliminary reports on biodyne have been sent to the War Department and the National Research Council.

Biodyne is made under a secret formula, including yeast and liver

oils. The Chicago Fire Department now carries five pounds of biodyne on each of its life squad cars. It has been found far more effective and rapid than tannic acid in the treatment of burn cases. Biodyne gives immediate relief from pain, leaves no scars. In no case where it has been used has skin grafting been necessary. Sister May Petronella Schroeder, professor on the staff of the Institute, recently reported a discovery regarded as particularly important at this time because of its possible effect on the country's supply of chlorine, which is needed in many war industries and in the production of certain types of synthetic rubber.

It is estimated that from 10,000 to 15,000 tons of chlorine are used annually for sterilization of sewage. Demonstrating on a laboratory scale that sewage can be sterilized by electrolysis with added salt, Sister Petronella's method, if it proves feasible on a commercial scale, will release a vast quantity of chlorine for vital war needs.

The nuns of the faculties of Catholic colleges are training nurses, physicists, chemists, dietitians and other specialists.—THOMAS F. DOYLE in the *New York Times*.