

In 1944, with World War II still far from ending, Mr Edgware was far-sighted enough to realise that the end of the hypochlorite story had not yet been fully told. He decided to diversify into the agricultural field with the cheap calcium hypochlorite, to increase the range of antiseptic products by a high quality toothpaste, and most importantly, to set up a research laboratory to elucidate the biochemistry of sodium and calcium hypochlorites.

I was of course delighted to become the Director of Research of the new laboratory. The routine titrations of salt and hypochlorite solutions had for a long time become a dull, but essential, task and I needed a good young analytical chemist for these. I was lucky in finding an excellent one, Phil Lincoln, who as a Seventh Day Adventist could not work on Saturdays and had therefore lost his position in a Government Laboratory. Phil was also delighted to be given the challenge of compounding a good toothpaste, and thus I was free to devote myself entirely to the new research laboratory.

The Milton factory was in old crammed buildings, perhaps the original Brewery, after which the street was named, almost opposite a notorious prison. In order to expand into the medical field, Mr Edgware rightly decided that the new laboratory should be in the doctors' district, the Harley and Wimpole Street area. Suitable premises in 42 Weymouth Street could be acquired, and now the fun started for me of finding an expert staff and purchasing the necessary equipment, by no means an easy assignment in the middle of World War II.

A great help at this stage was Surgeon Commander John Bunyan, the direct descendent of the famous 17th century English writer and preacher, the author of *The Pilgrims Progress* (1678). The 20th century John Bunyan was a dentist who during his practice had found that irrigation with a dilute solution of Milton accelerated healing after a tooth extraction, cured gingivitis and was generally beneficial to all infections caused by bacteria in the mouth.

He argued brilliantly that if similar dilute irrigations could be applied to infected human skin and tissues, the same rapid healing might be achieved. But how was a liquid to be applied to the terrible burns which had been suffered by fighter pilots in the war? Conventional treatment had rarely been successful. The answer came from a Mr Stannard, a manufacturer of oil silk, who prepared suitable bags for infected arms and legs, through which the Milton irrigation could be effected. The successes were as astounding as those he had achieved in his patients' mouths, and the 'Bunyan—Stannard Bags' were soon considered as 'Miracle Bags' by patients and doctors alike. Their wide-spread use raised the reputation of Milton greatly and I had only to mention them to obtain priority, when hiring staff or buying equipment.