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THEORY AND PRACTICE AS TO DISINFECTION.

BY ALFRED CARPENTER, M. D., M. R. C. P., VICE-PRESIDENT BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, ETC., ETC.

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WHAT are the matters which have to be disinfected? In the foremost rank we have the infective particles given off from cases of infective diseases. We have the excreta and the fomites—the latter term having reference to the morbid matter which may be contained in clothes and habitations. Then we have the sewers of the district, which may have been infected by excreta and by washings.

Next we have the conditions which in themselves may promote the rise of infectious disease, such as heaps of excreta kept in the neighbourhood of dwelling-houses; decomposing fish, flesh, and vegetables; the condition of the markets in which such things are exposed for sale; the state of the shops and premises of those who expose them for sale; and also the state of the streets, courts, alleys, and private premises of the town.

Then there are the chances of infection from diseased animals; for their influence upon the health of man is becoming an established axiom at last, although I recollect the time when it was limited in men's minds to the effects of glanders and hydrophobia. They were fain to think that there was a great gulf between men and animals over which disease was not likely to pass. That day has gone by, and it

seems now that the health of domestic animals is as important to a country as is the health of the masses themselves.

Then we have noxious trades which have to be carried on, and which may be safely carried on under proper regulations; but as such regulations usually involve an expense to the trader, they are shirked if you do not do your proper duty.

Lastly, there is the condition of the water supply, which may be fouled by the action of individuals or communities. You require to keep your eyes open and hasten to report the possibilities of such to your authority as quickly as possible. With all these duties disinfection may be more or less brought into action.

DEODORIZATION IS NOT DISINFECTION—
REASON, NOT ROUTINE.

There is something much more to be thought of than simply pouring a solution of chloride of lime into a sewer, or solution of green copperas into a cess-pool, or putting clothes into a hot oven. If the work is to be done properly it must be by reasoning out the grounds of the application, and not by a blind and instinctive obedience to some written or verbal order. If disinfectants are to do their work properly