

Selections.

GERMICIDES AND ANTISEPTICS IN DENTISTRY.*

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I take the liberty to plan this essay on the classification of the conditions indicating the subject, instead of classifying the drugs, believing in this manner I can more definitely present the subject.

The following is a list of pathological conditions, or otherwise, which includes nearly all the conditions that germicides and antiseptics are indicated in dental practice:

- 1st. Normal; Prophylaxy and Accidental Lesions.
- 2nd. Stomatocase, in three divisions: 1st, Aphthæ; 2nd, Thrush; Stomasitica; 3rd, Stomatitis Gangrenosa.
- 3rd. Calcic Inflammation, Uilitis and Gingivitis.
- 4th. Phragedenic Pericementitis.
- 5th. Intra-Osseous Suppuration.
- 6th. Dental Canal and Pulp Antisepsis, and Dental Canal Sepsis.
- 7th. Disinfecting Instruments, etc.

1st. Prophylaxy—In a healthy mouth, no therapeutical agent is indicated; but there is a fast growing popular demand for a mouth lotion of an antiseptic and germicidal order to prevent disease and caries within the mouth. I am much opposed to giving any of the mouth lotions that are used in diseased conditions for *constant use* in a healthy mouth, as all, that is, all that have any therapeutic value are either stimulating, astringent, or alkaline, and will by long and constant use do injury. This is not a presumption, but a fact, noted from close observation. Cleanliness is the only prophylactic needed in health. I do not know of a single therapeutical agent or compound that I can advise *for continuous use*, but water and the intelligent use of the brush, silk or floss flag.

In accidental lesions with healthy surroundings I am still of the opinion that they are best left alone, unless symptoms of parasitical complications are evident, then treatment will be as mentioned under that division.

2nd. Stomatocace: 1st—Div.-Aphthæ. The several forms of aphthous stomatitis and its etiology cannot be given here, which is systemic and eruptive, breaking out in apparently perfectly healthy

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