

disease depends upon a distinct *germ* or *primal cause*;—which it is self-evident that it must—and that this *entity* or *disease germ*, is capable of multiplication or reproduction in the system to an indefinite extent; and that the symptoms of small-pox are the resulting constitutional disturbance from its presence and reproduction; and the eruption, the casting out or effort of nature to rid itself of this enemy; and that this eruption, and other emanations from the patient are contagious; then, the shortest route to a successful eradication of such a poisonous influence from a community, neighbourhood or family, must be to attack, neutralize, and destroy the *disease germ* itself in each individual patient, by the use of such agents as are likely to be successful in accomplishing the feat. In this way the ravages of the disease would be cut short in the subject of its attack; nature would be prevented from sinking exhausted from its effects; its power of contagion destroyed and its ravages confined to the limits of a few isolated cases, and by a wise use of disinfectants in suspected localities, the fountain source destroyed from whence new cases might spring up and so extend the ravages of this dire disease. To meet these indications, I selected carbolic acid as an disinfectant and antiseptic agent, capable of destroying the *disease germ*, whatever may be its nature, whether an exhalation, a fungoid, an atmospheric influence, or a *disease germ*, capable of being taken into the system by injection, absorption, or inhalation.

If atmospheric germs, when introduced into open wounds are capable of occasioning suppuration, setting up putrefaction and preventing the healing of wounds, as maintained by Dr. Lemaire, of Paris, and Mr. Lister, and carbolic acid is capable of destroying these germs and preventing suppuration, thus promoting the healing of wounds, as it has been amply proven to be capable of doing. If it has been successful as an antiseptic and disinfectant in multitudes of ways in destroying disease emanations, and in opposing the spread of this and other contagious diseases. scarlatina, measles, typhus and typhoid, cholera included, must it not be through the power which it possesses of destroying *disease germs* in whatever form, of whatever nature, and under whatever circumstances, brought into contact with them even in the sanguineous fluid itself as in Pyemia, in the human subject. Its suitability, therefore as an agent calculated to destroy the small-pox *virus* in the system cannot be questioned, and especially when used in solution with glycerine, an agent which possesses such power of penetrability as to find its way to the most minute cells of the bony structures themselves. I therefore

selected carbolate of glycerine as the remedy he calculated to perform the work required of any remedy administered with such an object in view. The more perfectly to attain to the required *desideratum*, namely, a thorough antiseptic and disinfectant remedy, I combined the sulphite of soda in the prescription, as being a remedy well calculated, by virtue of the sulphurous acid which it contains, to destroy any parasitic or vegetable fungus which might at any time be present, or have any part or lot in producing or shaping the course of an attack of the disease, and which are assumed to exist in various forms of putrid fevers, and other forms of germinal disease. Moreover, sulphite of soda is a remedy of acknowledged value in many forms of disease depending upon a blood poison. The sulphurous acid, which is evolved when the salt comes in contact with the acids of the stomach, I suppose to act as an antiseptic and disinfectant, while the soda forming other combinations may act as a simple alkali or an aperient. For internal administration, then, I devised the following mixture:—

℞ Acid Carbolic, ʒj. Glycerine ʒj. Sodæ Sulphitis ʒx. Aquæ ad. ʒvj. Of this a dose proportionate to age of patient. For infants,  $\frac{1}{2}$  a teaspoonful; for children up to about 7, one teaspoonful; and for adults, a dessertspoonful (or four teaspoonfuls) every third hour, to be administered as early as possible in the disease.

When there was much fever, and little action of the skin and kidneys, I gave the following as a diaphoretic every hour, until the feverish, or congestive stage of the disease had passed over,

℞ Potass Chloras ʒij. Liquor Ammon Acet. ʒij, Spts. Eth. Nit. ʒij, Aquæ ad. ʒvj. A teaspoonful for a child every hour, four times as much for an adult.

In cases where the eruption had already appeared before beginning the treatment, a topical application was required, which would at once destroy the contagious emanation from the vesicle or pustules, and at the same time remove the distressing itching present in most cases. To meet this indication, I prescribed a carbolate of glycerine, as follows:

℞ Acid Carbolic ʒij, Glycerine ʒij. To be applied to the face and other portions of the body on which the eruption had already appeared, once or twice a day with a feather.

I was not long waiting for an opportunity for putting this plan into practice. Mr. A., residing in Wolfe street, called upon me to visit his wife upon a Saturday evening in April last. I found her suffering from symptoms premonitory of small-pox, high