

THERAPEUTICS

IN CHARGE OF

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FORMALIN "SCHERING."

The name "Formalin" has been given to a 40 per cent. solution of chemically pure formaldehyde in water.

Formaldehyde (CH_2O) is a gaseous body which is prepared by subjecting methylalcohol to oxidation. It is readily absorbed by water; for this reason it is put on the market in the form of an aqueous solution termed "Formalin."

Formalin mixes with water in all proportions. It is, therefore, easy to prepare any dilution that is wanted.

Formalin has been found by Drs. Loew, Buchner, Aronson, Berlioz, Stahl, Liebreich, Lehmann, and others, to be an excellent disinfectant and antiseptic. The properties of formalin may be expressed as follows:

It has an extraordinarily active microbicide power, similar to that of sublimate, is comparatively non-poisonous, *attacks only the substance of the contagious materials*, and is very readily employed under all circumstances either as a liquid or in a gaseous form.

The enormous antiseptic power of formic aldehyde solutions and their comparative non-poisonousness have indicated the employment of formalin as a surgical disinfectant, and especially recommended as an external remedy for *lupus*, *cancerous* affections, and in very dilute (half per cent.) solution for the irrigation of cavities.

The effect of the preparation upon the human organism was tried by Dr. Gegner, of Erlangen (*Munchener Med. Wochenschrift*), and solutions from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 25 per cent. strength employed as gargles and lotions in the mouth and throat. He came to the conclusion that formalin was one of the strongest antibacterial remedies known, and that, although in an undi-