

isms. While foul odors are not, in themselves, an evidence of the presence of contagion, they warn us that there is danger, and we shall do well to heed the warning.

3. We may attack the germs themselves, and endeavor to lower or destroy their vitality. This is what we seek to accomplish by the use of *disinfectants*; but the germs are organisms of a very low grade of life, and are therefore not easy to kill. The study of the various disinfectants, with especial reference to their relative value in different diseases, or under different circumstances, therefore becomes an important one. So, also, is it essential to know the best means and modes of using them.

WHEN AND WHERE DISINFECTANTS SHOULD BE USED.

We must not expect that the use of a little chlorinated lime or carbolic acid will have a magic influence to ward off danger. For the complete disinfection of an apartment in which there has been a case of infectious disease, it is necessary to fill the room completely with an atmosphere of sulphurous acid, chlorine, bromine, or hyponitric acid, and keep it several hours shut up, until every crevice is thoroughly penetrated and permeated with the disinfectant. But this thorough use of disinfectants is only admissible for the prevention of contagion after the recovery or death of the patient.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS REGARDING DISINFECTION.

IN the report of the Committee on Disinfectants of the American Public Health Association, previously alluded to, appear the following general directions regarding disinfection :