

## LYSOL.

Attention having been drawn by the recent cholera "scare" to the popularity of carbolic acid as a disinfectant, notice is being taken in medical circles of the even superior advantages for many purposes of the cresols as disinfectants. It was discovered that crude carbolic acid, made soluble by the action of sulphuric acid, surpassed in germicidal power an equally strong solution of pure phenol; and creolin, although free from carbolic acid, was proved to be of unmistakably superior disinfecting activity to the latter. Being insoluble in water, however, these cresols were neglected until the idea was hit upon of combining them with resin soap. Although very efficacious, these preparations were only emulsions; and it remained for the cresols to be made soluble, as now in the form of lysol, in order that what can be called the ideal soluble disinfectant should be made generally available. Lysol is produced by dissolving in fat, and subsequently saponifying, with the addition of alcohol, the fraction of tar oil which boils between 190° and 200° C. It is a brown, oily-looking, clear liquid, with a feebly aromatic creasote-like odor. It contains 50 per cent. of cresols; and it is miscible with water to a clear saponaceous, frothing fluid. It shows turbidity when mixed with hard water, but its disinfectant quality is not impaired thereby. It acts, to all intents and purposes, as a soap; and it is admirably adapted for use in surgical operations. According to German testimony, lysol is one of the most precious products of coal tar which chemistry has given to the service of mankind.—*Scientific American*.

## ALOPECIA TREATMENT.

Dr. H. Paschke divides alopecia into two classes for the purpose of treatment. When this condition is due to seborrhœa he recommends washing the head with alkaline soaps, specifying a liquid soap with the addition of 1 per cent. of carbonate of potassium. For permanent removal of the oily matters, coal-tar benzin with twice its weight of absolute alcohol; but this must be used only by daylight. Occasionally an alcoholic solution of resorcin, 1:30, with a small amount of castor oil, is advisable, as well as the naphthol soaps now to be found at the apothecaries. Of late years he has used 10 to 20 per cent ointments of ichthyol in lanolin; this, however, must be preceded by an energetic washing with soap.

Sometimes the daily use of alcoholic preparations of tannin and quinine are useful; such preparations are often found in the shops. Although the treatment is likely to be prolonged, yet the prognosis is generally

favorable. The cases where there are scale-formation, pityriasis, or scanty secretion of the sebaceous follicles, are more difficult to treat. Here the washing with soaps has no place, but oils and pomades are required. Here, also, are used stimulating remedies of 4 to 6 per cent alcoholic solutions of tincture of cantharides, oil of sassafras, tincture of capsicum, or tincture of hellebore, either daily or three times weekly. If this condition is accompanied with hyperidrosis, then local faradization and reconstructive remedies—as iron or arsenic—are required.

The cases of trichorrhexis nodosa are entirely unsatisfactory from the standpoint of therapeutics, although sometimes pilocarpine, both locally and internally, may be of service. Alopecia areata apparently is spontaneously cured, quite as often as by remedies, although usually disinfectants and irritants are prescribed.—*American Journal Medical Sciences*.

An instructive contribution to our knowledge of the usefulness of guaiacol—the active constituent of creasote—in tuberculosis is from the pen of Dr. A. Jacobi. In more than a hundred cases, mostly adult, he prescribed about four drops four times a day after meals and at bed-time, in sweetened water, milk, mild wine, or whiskey and water. In no case did the daily doses exceed 28 drops for adults and 12 drops for children.

In a number of cases the remedy was inhaled as well as taken by the stomach. The atmosphere was impregnated with the vapor, either by soaking a sponge with the remedy, exposing it to the air on a plate, or by mixing with water and applying heat. The results were almost uniformly good, most of the patients gaining in strength and weight, while appetite and digestion improved, the cough became looser, and after a month or two appeared to be more mucous and less purulent.

TREATMENT OF RINGWORM. — Crawford Warren, F.R.C.S.I. (*Lancet*), suggests the following treatment for this affection: The affected region should first be washed with soap and warm water containing a little carbonate of soda, and then well dried. Acetic acid should then be thoroughly applied with a small brush, and in the lapse of about five minutes, when the acid will have soaked into the part, an ointment composed of sixty grains of chrysophanic acid to an ounce of lanoline should be rubbed in. This treatment should be carried out daily for such a period as may be necessary.