

producing no irritation of the tissues: one-eighth of an ounce is sufficient to disinfect an apartment combining 100 yards. His substance is azotized ether, being the product of a mixture of azotic acid of 36° and four parts of alcohol at 90°. Mr. Peyrusson has placed in vases beaten eggs, blood, meat, etc., and allowed putrescence to do its work; he next placed in the vases a bottle, unstoppered, containing azotized ether, and they protected the contents intact from further decay, while a vase left free, advanced to the last stages of decomposition. The experiments were renewed with chloride of lime, carbolic acid and ozone: the first did not stop putrefaction, the second delayed it, the third checked decay at first, but after three days it was inefficacious. The azotized ether proved faultless; but it has also been tried in some hospital wards, and with marked success. At Limoges, in an hospital ward cubing 300 yards, and containing 12 beds, the atmosphere was positively repulsive: 3 ounces of the ether poured out on as many saucers completely purified the air, and hastened the recovery of the inmates. Similar results have taken place in other hospitals.

SCARLET FEVER.—PECULIAR ETIOLOGY.

Dr. E. B. Ward sends the following to the *Detroit Lancet*:—The subtlety of scarlatina virus passes human ken. In a given number of subjects exposed to small-pox we can determine with tolerable correctness what the result will be, but scarlatina obeys no definite rule. It is not uniform in its operation, like small-pox, but the contagion has a tenaciousness and a

lurking cussedness not dreamed of by other contagious disorders (supposing them to be asleep).

It lingers in an apartment or clings to a bit of flannel or cast-off garment of any kind to an unlimited extent, so far as we know; whereas, the small-pox virus disappears by free exposure to fresh air, in a comparatively short time.

In proof of this statement, I present the following cases which occurred in my practice last month:

Some time during the winter of 1875 a malignant form of scarlatina appeared south of this village, and fairly decimated the families throughout a certain neighborhood.

Last spring one of the farmers, in whose family the disease had occurred, sold to a man whose family consisted of a wife and three children, who occupied the house in peace until some time in December last, I was called to attend the children, who the messenger told me, "had a rash and were mighty sick."

I found the eruption, the sore throat and strawberry tongue of scarlatina, and began to inquire as to where the exposure could have taken place, but elicited nothing, as the mother declared that they hadn't been away or had any company which could account for the phenomena. Further, there was no scarlet fever in the vicinity.

Finally, it transpired that the father had cleaned out the attic about ten days previous, and among the rubbish were certain clothes and a rag doll and pictures which were recognized by the neighbors as some that were used in the sick room to amuse the little patients five years before. The little newcomers utilized them. I was prepared to believe that the poison of