

the cicatrization of which is manifestly hastened. The patients are fond of the spray and ask for it. The odour of this antiseptic is agreeable and pleasant.

The spray begun early, from the tenth to twelfth day of a coherent variola, and directed specially upon the face of the patient, is repeated four or five times during the day; it thus prevents patients from scratching by allaying the uneasiness, and effaces, by favouring cicatrization, the hideous marks which the disease so often leaves after it.

These antizymotic vapours have, moreover, the merit of preventing, when frequently renewed, those *saillies verruqueuses*, true post-varioid condylomata, so frequent upon the face, and so slow in disappearing.

3rd. It often happens that patients are taken to the hospital in a carriage, this vehicle thus becoming one of the surest means of contagion. Hence, should there not be an immediate application of this prophylactic vapour to it? We have been accustomed to spray the carriage with it.

4th. The *vinaigre de Pennès* has equally rendered service as a lotion in baths for cleansing the ulcerated surfaces so frequently following the opening of abscesses—frequent in the later stages of small-pox.

In a word, this new agent appears, to us, to realize a true progress in the prophylactic treatment of contagious diseases, parasitic or zymotic, and we are happy to be able to denote here the principal indications for its employment, and the benefits following its use.—*Dr. Labadie-Lagrave, Médecin des Hôpitaux de Paris.*

ADMINISTRATION OF OIL OF TURPENTINE.—

Ordinary sulphuric ether has the property of modifying the persistently unpleasant flavour of oil of turpentine. The following mixture has been found very beneficial in vesical catarrh, neuralgia, and sciatica :—

R. Ol. terebinth..... 3ij.

Æther sulphur..... 3j.

Mix by shaking violently, and add :

Syr. aurant. flor..... 3j.

Aquæ..... 3iv.

M. S.—Teaspoonful every 2 hours.—*Druggists' Circular.*

KOCH AND THE INFECTIVE ELEMENT IN TUBERCULOSIS.

Ever since Villemin, more than fifteen years ago, claimed, as the result of his experiments on the lower animals, that tubercle was a specific disease, due to a special virus, almost endless experiments have been made in different parts of the world to test the validity of his statements. The outcome of their conjoined labors has placed the matter in a somewhat new light, for while it has been determined with great accuracy that the miliary granulum is a product of inflammation, it has also been shown, with about as much certainty, that various organic substances may produce it, and, therefore, to a certain extent it may be classed among the infective diseases. These results have been derived from the studies of Fox, Sanderson, Clarke, Cohnheim, Salomonsen, and Buhl. Those, however, who, like Cohnheim, Klebs, and Koch, maintain that the tubercle granulum is due solely to the interposition of a specific virus, have naturally hunted for it with their microscopes, but thus far when one has proclaimed a discovery he has obtained little credence, because these alleged discoveries have almost invariably proved premature. The latest announcement comes from Robert Koch, who has recently received an appointment as advisory councillor in the Sanitary Department in Berlin. He claimed by using aniline dyes to have been able to colour certain minute bacterial organisms found in tuberculosis, and he is prepared to affirm that they are the essential elements that cause infection.

The dyes in question are methyl-blue and vesuvin, which cause peculiar staining, differentiating them from the ordinary bacteria of decomposition that take a purple colour with hæmatoxylin. His method is as follows: A methyl-blue fluid is made, which consists of 1 c.c. of a concentrated alcoholic solution of methyl-blue in 200 c.c. of distilled water, to which 0.2 c.c. of a 10 per cent. caustic soda solution has been added. The preparations remain in this mixture from twenty to twenty-four hours, or, if they are kept at a temperature of 104° F. in the water-bath, the time may be reduced to a half-hour. Then the same pre-