

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN TO PERFECT THE SANITARY SURROUNDINGS OF OUR HOMES.

THE methods of guarding against preventable diseases in the household are substantially those which public health associations adopt for the protection of the state. They are, in brief, general sanitation, by which is meant municipal and personal cleanliness, and disinfection.

Under general sanitation we may class all measures which have for their object the destruction of filth and all decomposing organic material, by which the development or growth of disease germs might be favored. If not practicable to destroy material of this kind it should at least be removed to a safe distance from the house, and treated with disinfectants and antiseptics.

That pure air, pure food, and good hygiene are essential to the maintenance of health are facts that need scarcely be alluded to here. The vital question we have to deal with is *how* shall disease germs, once they have been developed, be killed?

It is in the accomplishment of this purpose that the beneficent action of disinfectants is made apparent.

WHAT IS A DISINFECTANT?

Not a little confusion exists in the popular mind, and indeed not a little has existed until the past three or four years in the minds of physicians and even sanitarians, as to what really constituted a disinfectant.

Many look upon the terms disinfectant, deodorant, and antiseptic as synonymous, while, as a matter of fact, their meaning is widely different, and the recognition of this difference is essential to the proper and safe employment of these three kinds of agents, which each have their role to play in combating the army of germs that, unseen, except by their dire effects, are constantly waging war against the forces of health.