

pleasure to Mr. Mackenzie's report, and I hope he will continue to investigate the question and that he will reach a satisfactory conclusion.

Dr. WARDLAW, Galt: I have listened to the report with much pleasure. We have used formaldehyde in several cases of diphtheria in Galt. We used the Indianapolis machine, the name of which I do not know. After using the formaldehyde, we left the room closed for from eighteen to twenty-four hours and then opened the window and allowed the air to enter the room for twenty-four hours. I did not send down swabs. Had I known that this question would come up, I would certainly have done so. I will send them down in other cases. In every house where we have used the formaldehyde we have had no return of the diphtheria with one exception. Under the old method we have had frequent returns. In the one case I have referred to, the return was probably due to the carelessness of the lady of the house. The room was closed up, but, unfortunately, they forgot to take away a pet canary that was there and they opened the room to take the bird away. When the room was opened the canary was found dead, but, on rolling up the blinds, several flies were seen as lively as ever. I would like to have heard the results of the experiments with formaldehyde in Berlin.

The SECRETARY: We have had no swabs that had been exposed, but the secretary of the board of health, writing about it, said that they had no returns in any house where formaldehyde had been used. The only objection they raised was that difficulty with the machine. I think they destroyed three machines through their plugging up. I think there are practical difficulties in all the methods used. Practically all the methods have been patented in some country. The Trillat Autoclave has been patented in France, and the Paraform tablets of Schering in Germany. In every case the maker claims more for the machine than the machine will do. Where the maker says to leave the room closed twelve hours, it is better to leave it closed twenty-four hours, and it is better to use double the quantity of formaldehyde stated in the directions.

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