

despair. "Do not probe the wound too curiously," says Samuel Sharp, the famous surgeon of the last century. I believe a wise man sometimes carefully worries out the precise organic condition of a patient's chest, when a very wise man would let it alone and treat the constitutional symptoms. The well-being of a patient may be endangered by the pedantic fooleries of a specialist.—*Michigan Medical News.*

BROMINE AS A DISINFECTANT.—In a paper on the above subject; read at the Berlin Apothecaries' Congress, Dr. Franke, of Charlottenburg, called attention to the fact that the difference between disinfection and deodorisation has only recently been appreciated by the general public. It is, however, now known that many inodorous substances are highly dangerous communicators of disease. The researches of Dr. Koch have brought to light the fact that a number of so-called disinfectants which have been employed for many years are quite insufficient preservatives against many kinds of disease-germs. Thus of late the search after new and reliable disinfectants has been actively carried on. Bromine has materially decreased in price since its production on a large scale at Stassfurt has made it an article of commerce, and Dr. Franke claims to have succeeded in obviating the difficulties which its strong corrosive qualities and other circumstances placed in the way of its general adoption. By the employment of organic acid combinations of alkalis he has succeeded in obtaining in a fluid form eight-tenths of the volume of bromine. The evaporation of the bromine is, he states, thereby considerably retarded and a permanent disinfection facilitated. For mere deodorisation a comparatively small quantity of bromine suffices, while for real disinfection a greater bulk is required. Experiments made by the Berlin sanitary officials have resulted in the fact being established that three and a half ounces of

bromine could disinfect a space of 918 cubic feet against the most inveterate forms of infection, for removing which sulphurous acid had proved unsuccessful. Other experiments showed that for simple deodorisation one-third of an ounce of bromine, hung up high, is sufficient for a space of 7,000 cubic feet. With reference to the use of bromine in the practice of medicine, he remarked that in a gaseous form bromine could be introduced into parts of the body not accessible to any other corrosive agent. In connection with the corrosive properties of bromine, he stated that petroleum had been accidentally discovered to be a cure for burns caused by bromine in a fluid state.—*London Lancet.*

AN ECONOMICAL PILL.—The everlasting pill was composed of metallic antimony, which was believed to have the property of purging as often as it was swallowed. This was economy in right earnest, for a single pill would serve a whole family during their lives, and might be transmitted as an heirloom to their posterity. We have heard of a lady, who having swallowed one of these pills, became seriously alarmed at its not passing. "Madam," said the physician, "fear not; it has already passed through a hundred patients without any difficulty."—*Paris Pharmacologia.*

TEST FOR THE PRESENCE OF IODINE IN THE BODY.—Dr. Henry A. Lediard, F.R.C.S., of the Cumberland Infirmary, says (*Brit. Med. Journal*) that calomel dusted on any ulcerated surface in persons taking iodide of potassium gives rise to a yellow tint. Added to the saliva of such persons it also determines a canary yellow colouration. The simultaneous administration of mercury internally does not affect the reaction.

M. Henrot presented a case of myxœdema. The pathogeny of this affection he attributed to hypertrophic lesions of the pituitary body, of the pineal gland, and of the great sympathetic.—*Lyon Méd.*