

directed that her face should be washed in water containing a spoonful of the solution (one grain to the ounce), and that the mouth should be sponged out with the same—directing also the use of the commercial acid solution about the house as a disinfectant. At the end of four days the internal administration was discontinued; not because of any unpleasant symptoms, but its continuance did not appear necessary. The mouth-wash, of which the child swallowed a few drops, and all the other applications, were continued; the body being anointed with olive oil, tintured with carbolic acid. From first to last no untoward symptom appeared; the fever subsided on the fifth day. The throat was not very sore; the tongue was relieved of the creamy coat after the third day; there was no offensive breath, and the child made a complete recovery. No other treatment was employed. A brother of this child, two years older, who had never contracted the disease, and who was with her constantly, had no symptoms of the disorder. His face was washed twice daily in the solution above mentioned.

The medical superintendant of this asylum, Dr. John P. Gray, informs me that in a family of six children, three were simultaneously attacked with scarlatina anginosa. They were put upon a course of treatment similar to the above, the house being thoroughly disinfected. They made a good recovery. The other three children were not attacked, although they were in constant communication with the sick ones. It is not assumed that the carbolic acid *cured* the children, or that it prevented the disease from attacking the rest. If, however, it is only a coincidence, it possesses the merit of being a very remarkable one, and will occupy our close attention in the future, as occasion may present. A prominent practitioner of this place, Dr. D. P. Bissell, now treats scarlatina in the manner indicated, and express himself as better pleased with this than any other method hitherto tried, and states that he "don't want to treat scarlet fever without carbolic acid."

Dr. Gray has spoken to me of a case (sequel of scarlatina anginosa) in which there occurred a very fetid discharge of ichorous pus from the ears and nostrils of the patient. A mild solution of the acid (two grains to the ounce of water) was thrown into the nares and audiorius externus, with the effect of arresting the sanious discharge, and causing its disappearance.

Dr. Bissell states that he has used a solution of carbolic acid—strength two grains to the ounce, the dose being one drachm—as a vermifuge, and has not been disappointed with the remedy. The *oxyuris vermicularis* (pin worm) may be at once destroyed by using as

an injection a drachm of the solution to four ounces of water.

As an escharotic its action is prompt, but superficial. It has a tendency to spread; this can be easily stopped by the application of water. The effects produced upon ulcerated surfaces are not transient; it seems to exert its power as an alternative for some time after the peculiar odour has disappeared.

As an injection for gonorrhœa it has proved itself equal, or I may say superior, to the ordinary remedies, and is less painful; the solution used being two to five grains to the ounce. The crystallized acid would seem to be indicated in the treatment of syphilitic ulcers, but upon this I cannot speak from observation.

Though it was not my intention to speak of this agent as a disinfectant, as it concerns the sick-room directly, yet some remarks may not be inappropriate. Nearly every practitioner has experienced the unpleasant odour emanating from the lying-in room. This may be entirely overcome by the proper use of the solution of commercial acid—a half ounce of which put into a gallon of boiling water, makes a strong solution—all, indeed, that the water will take up—which if filtered to remove oily matters, may be thrown about the floor with impunity. Two table-spoonfuls at a time are sufficient to disinfect and deodorize a large room, and one-half the quantity is generally sufficient. A few drops sprinkled upon the napkins, and applied to the genitalia externa, will remove the unpleasant, pungent odour which accompanies the lochial discharge; thus exempting the patient from a great source of discomfort. A small quantity of the solution put into the close stool before use, destroys the odour which would otherwise occur. Whenever it has been introduced with these objects in view, it has received the unqualified approval of those most interested.

Carbolic acid at once arrests the development of the lower forms of organic life. It stops the fermentation of yeast, kills microscopic infusoria and cheese mites. Nor does its influence end here. In order to test its destructive power over insect and animal life, I procured a cricket, smeared the inside of a wine-glass with the commercial carbolic acid, and inverted it over the cricket, leaving sufficient space at the bottom to allow a supply of air. Immediately after the glass was inverted, the cricket made violent attempts to escape, lasting two or three minutes. It then staggered about and fell over, had a few severe convulsions, and died. A cockroach was next tried, with the same result; it was from ten to fifteen minutes in the vapour.

A mouse was procured, and put into a wide-