

most eminent authorities, it must be looked upon as the expression of reliable evidence, and therefore possessing much weight.

*Alcohol.*—The experiments to determine the disinfectant and antiseptic value of alcohol, and the conditions under which its use is, or is not, successful, have given rise to diverse conclusions.

Reinicke, Ahlfeld and Epstein in an extended series of investigations, agree that the most important condition favoring the action of alcohol is the presence of moisture. It is, moreover, a valuable auxiliary as Epstein's conclusions, as follows, clearly show :

"That absolute alcohol has no disinfecting power; that 50 per cent. alcohol disinfects better than higher or lower concentrations; that antiseptics which have more or less efficiency as aqueous solutions lose their disinfecting properties when dissolved in high grade alcohol, but that on the other hand, solutions of sublimate, carbolic acid, lysol and thymol have a higher power of disinfection in 50 per cent. alcohol than solutions of the same concentrations in water have." In itself alcohol has not valuable antiseptic qualities, but is useful in that it enhances the antiseptic properties of other agents.

Some writers have suggested that the antiseptic action of alcohol, when used to disinfect the hand, is purely a mechanical one, contracting the skin, and thus temporarily sealing up the bacteria during that period in which their presence would be injurious.

*Anytin* is a coal-tar derivative and is entitled to consideration in that it intensifies the action of other antiseptics and possesses a neutralizing action on the diphtheria toxin.

The solution of anytin is spoken of as anytol. It has been found that a one-half per cent. solution of cresol-anytol acts as vigorously as a 2 per cent. carbolic acid. A 5 per cent. cresol-anytol killed anthrax spores in forty hours, while the same strength of carbolic acid solution allowed a vigorous growth of anthrax spores. The 3 per cent. cresol-anytol solution is recommended for the disinfection of the hands. Hands were thoroughly rubbed with the culture of *Staphylococcus* in bouillon, then after Fürbringer's method, brushed with soap and warm water one minute; washed one minute with alcohol; immersed in a 1 per cent. cresol-anytol solution for one minute, and finally rinsed in sterilized water. Even with the 1 per cent. solution the hands were rendered sterile as far as *Staphylococcus* are concerned.

*Boiling.*—This convenient method is found to destroy in a very few minutes, most disease germs at a point considerably below boiling. Cholera spirillum was killed at a temperature