

out is now generally concurred in. We hope our "at ease in Zion" health authorities in Montreal will sense the possibilities here referred to, and not be slow in informing themselves of and adopting a measure which promises such advantages, with apparent simplicity of application.

Formaline is a 40 per cent. solution of paraformaldehyde in water. Its antiseptic powers are said to be equal to that of corrosive sublimate. Formic aldehyde is a gas, and is a powerful penetrating germicide, one part in a thousand of air will in 24 hours destroy all micro-organisms, and in strengths of 2 to 3 per cent. will do so in about a quarter of an hour. It is also a deodorant, and is non-destructive to clothing or instruments. Formaline in strengths of  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 per cent. is now one of the most popular medical antiseptic applications in surgical practice.

### PUERPERAL ECLAMPSIA; ITS ETIOLOGY AND TREATMENT.

Dr. William Warren Potter, of Buffalo, read a paper on this subject at the 91st Annual Meeting of the Medical Society of the State of New York, Albany, Jan. 26, 1897.

He said, *inter alia*, that we seem to have arrived at the renaissance of eclamptic literature, that while the subject is being discussed in magazine articles and societies, it would not answer for this Society to keep silent.

Though the pathogenesis of eclampsia is still unsettled, we are certain that it is a condition *sui generis*, pertaining only to the puerperal state, and that to describe, as formerly, three varieties—hysterical, epileptic and apoplectic—is erroneous as to pathology and causation as well as misleading in treatment.

The kidney plays an important office in the economy of the eclamptic. If it fails to eliminate toxins, symptoms are promptly presented in the pregnant woman. Renal insufficiency is a usual accompaniment of the eclamptic state. Over-production of toxins and under-elimination by the kidney is a short route to an eclamptic seizure. However, many women with albuminuria escape eclampsia and many eclamptics fail to exhibit albuminous urine.

The microbic theory of eclampsia has not yet been demonstrated. The toxæmic theory in the present state of