

so treated, present no vesication; pain invariably disappears soon after the application of ichthyol and the affected part soon heals up.

*Iodoform.*—The antiseptic and anæsthetic properties of iodoform render it a very valuable application in many diseases of the skin. This substance is efficient, not by destroying the micro-organisms of disease but by rendering the tissue upon which it is spread an unfavourable soil for bacterial development. It probably also counteracts the effect of the toxic products. Iodoform is a decidedly beneficial remedy in various inflammatory conditions especially after suppuration or ulceration has occurred. Ulcerated bubo, chronic ulcers of the leg, scrofuloderma and bedsores are markedly improved by its use.

It is a valuable remedy also in burns. The exposed surface is protected from the attacks of microbes, while at the same time the dressing acts as a local anæsthetic and reduces suffering. There are two serious objections to its use, however, viz.:—Its penetrating and disagreeable odour, and a more grave objection, its toxicity. Caution, therefore, should always be observed in the employment of this potent drug.

*Peroxide of Hydrogen.*—This is a very efficient oxidizing and antiseptic agent. Its special value consists in its power of decomposing pus. In the management of many diseases of the skin, attended by suppuration and destruction of tissue, lotions of hydrogen peroxide are of decided service, as in the suppuration stage of acne, in ecthyma, carbuncles. In scarlatina the nose and throat may be disinfected by a spray of hydrogen peroxide.

*Antiseptics.*—The therapeutical resources of dermatology have been greatly enlarged by the introduction of many substances belonging to this class, which have the power either of destroying the specific organisms of disease, or of neutralizing their effects. As is well known at the present day, many cutaneous affections are due to the action of microbes. Abraded, blistered or burned surface furnish an excellent medium for the growth of many forms of bacteria. The problem of topical medication therefore, is to destroy the bacteria *in situ*, or at least, inhibit their further development and prevent the absorption of their toxic products. In lupus vulgaris an effective plan consists in destroying the nodules, and sprinkling the surface of the artificial ulcer with naphthol or iodoform. Carbolic acid has been widely employed in absorbing the progress of boils. It has been used in the form of a spray, of compresses soaked in a solution of suitable strength and kept in contact with the inflamed area, and by injection into the interior of the boil.

Similar measures are employed in the treatment of carbuncles. In the treatment of erysipelas also, great value is laid upon the use of such