

cient. Dr. Sutherland believes that at least 4500 cubic feet per head per hour must be allowed when there are many bad cases, and especially surgical cases with open wounds; and during epidemics, or when hospital gangrene, pyæmia, erysipelas are spreading, 6000 feet at least must be given; or, in other words, the supply must be almost unlimited. The best surgeons now consider an almost complete exposure of pyæmic patients to the open air the best treatment; and it is well known that in typhus fever and (to a less extent) in typhoid, and also in smallpox and plague, this complete exposure of patients to air is the first important mode of treatment, before even diet and medicines."

ON THE DISINFECTING PROPERTIES OF CERTAIN SUBSTANCES IN EVERY-DAY USE.

BY JOHN DAY, M.D.

I have undertaken to deliver a short lecture "On the Disinfecting Properties of Certain Substances in Every-day Use, with a few remarks on their value in the Preservation of Health," and I hope it may be my good fortune to make it both interesting and practically useful.

I need hardly say that disinfectants are among the principal weapons with which we do battle against the spread of infectious diseases. If, then, I can clearly prove, by reliable chemical tests, that many of the substances by which we are daily surrounded, and which are in very common use, are possessed of the property of spontaneously generating a disinfecting principle, which renders them potent destroyers of zymotic poisons; and if I can also show how, with the greatest ease and simplicity, their use may be directed against the spread of infectious diseases, the trouble I have gone to in preparing this lecture will be amply repaid.

Now some, before I proceed, may, perhaps, wish to know what constitutes a disinfectant. Well, I think I may say that nearly all disinfectants, certainly all the most powerful, are oxidizers, that is, they act as disinfectants by virtue of the oxygen they either contain in themselves or set free from other substances, and it is to be considered of disinfectants of this class that I shall confine myself.

In the strict sense of the word, a disinfectant is a substance