

some pearline, killing bacteria and removing all adherent wax. Referring to wax or modelling compound, when once used, it should never be used again—no amount of melting or water boiling can restore it. Its place is with the waste plaster. Next, consider all instruments for extraction; if not perfectly aseptic they become at once instruments of inoculation, carrying the virus directly into the circulation; also all the instruments used at the chair including engine handpiece, right angle attachments—in fact, everything that comes in contact with the mouth of the patient or the hands of the operator. There are different methods used for cleansing such. In the first place, it must be effective, and it must be rapid. I see in the August *Cosmos*, on page 756, an article by H. O. Reik, M.D., where he speaks highly of a sterilizer consisting of formaldehyde in which gas is generated—not the solution. I have never seen it; but, in view of the known value of formaldehyde as an antiseptic agent, it may be just the thing. In our own office, after having the instruments thoroughly washed and cleansed, they are placed in a dish containing a solution of germicidal soap prepared by Parke, Davis & Co. It is a soap containing mercuric iodide, and they claim that when this soap is rubbed in water until a heavy lather is formed, the solution will contain approximately 1-5000th mercuric iodide, and that this solution is more effective than 1-1000th bichloride, and less than one-fifth as poisonous. In this solution the instruments are allowed to remain at least five minutes, generally longer, although the makers claim that it does its work in much less time. After this bath they are rinsed very carefully and thoroughly under the tap. It does not rust or discolor the instruments, neither does it act as an irritant to the mouth or hands. But, as we are dealing with a powerful poison, great care should be exercised, and it will be seen further along that all the cleansing can easily be accomplished without the hands coming in contact with the solution—harmless if it did, though repeated contact might have some effect. It has not the objectionable odor of carbolic acid, neither does it act upon corundum or stub wheels as euthymol or lysterine. We think this a safe and convenient agent for rendering instruments antiseptic. To make plain the course followed, I will explain that we have, for holding the cleansing fluid, a dish of graniteware—about seven inches long, four inches wide and three or four inches deep—fitting loosely in this is an inner dish (tinned copper) made so it will drop loosely in the dish and sink to the bottom. This inner dish is about two inches deep, and its sides and bottom are thickly studded with holes just small enough so as not to allow the right angle burr to fall through. All the instruments and appliances, after washing with a brush, are placed in the inner dish, which readily sinks to the bottom of the outer