WHAT DISINFECTANTS ARE OF THE MOST VALUE? *

THAT depends on the immediate object to be accomplished. Recent experiments have shown that among the most efficient of all true disinfectants, we must rank corrosive sublimate. But this is poisonous to the higher animals, and cannot, therefore, have universal application. For disinfecting excrementitious products, it must be considered the best agent we have, and it can be employed also in treating articles of clothing, etc., which should also be boiled before they are again used. Potassium permanganate, which is far less poisonous, is useful, especially from its deodorizing power. These may be combined for use in the sick room. While these various substances can be employed in the form of a spray, and thus diffused through an apartment, they should be replaced in many cases by gaseous agents, which can more readily pursue the disease germs floating in the air. Of gaseous disinfectants, we may choose between sulphurous acid, chlorine, and bromine, and to this list may be added also iodine. The results of recent researches prove that, of the agents available from their cheapness as disinfectants, corrosive sublimate, permanganate of potassium, chlorine, bromine, and perhaps the chloride of zinc, are the only ones having sufficient germicidal power to be worthy of consideration. The following table from Miquel (*Bied. Centr.*) shows the comparative value of a few of the most important antiseptics. The figures give the amount of the compound which was required to preserve 1000 c. c. of beef tea:

	GRMS.
Mercuric iodide	0.025
Silver iodide	0.03
Hydrogen peroxide	0.05

* Excerpt from a Monograph by Prof. A. B. Lyons, M.D.