

Since the report of Dr. Barrows came I have made some experiments to show the effect of the cataphoric current upon litmus after it had been saturated with formalin. I had previously tested many other combinations of drugs and chemicals, and had invariably found that marked decomposition was the outcome.

The electro-positive elements of every other medicament had divorced themselves from the electro-negative, the electro-positive seeking the negative pole, while the electro-negative sought the positive pole.

With formalin so treated no such phenomena obtain, but the formaldehyd seems rather to be given off equally from the whole length of the litmus strip in its original form of gas. This would seem to indicate that it is the penetration of the eliminated gas which did the business for Dr. Barrows so effectually.

The topic which I chose as the title of this essay is by no means yet exhausted, but the essay is already overlong. In conclusion, permit me to thank you for your very patient and courteous solution.—*Dental Cosmos*.

THE STORAGE BATTERY IN THE DENTAL OFFICE.*

BY G. E. LOB, M.E., CHICAGO, ILL.

The storage battery! A doubting smile will cross a good many dentists' faces when they hear any one advocating the use of such cells after the disappointment it has caused to many of them. Leaking jars, burned carpets, broken plates and lack of current just at the instant when it is mostly needed, have at times exasperated even the best natured operator and made him go back to his old foot-engine, because it is always ready for work and will not give out at the most inopportune moment. Nevertheless, since electricity has become such an important factor in the dental office and its use being bound to spread more and more, so that even the practitioner in the small country town, where no light or power circuit is available, wants to use it, the storage battery should deserve some attention, especially since its form has been improved and, through better knowledge, ways have been devised to simplify its handling.

Naturally, men handling electric machines and apparatus should want to understand the construction of the different appa-

*Read before the Chicago Dental Society.