

for all practical purposes, and is furnished at a lower price.

I have been thus explicit in reference to the article, as in some of the medical journals, writers speak of giving a *drop* or two of *pure* carbolic acid, evidently referring to a solution of the crystals.<sup>†</sup> Until an official solution is announced, it is better to purchase the crystals and make our own solutions. There are two prominent adulterations already in the market—*carboline* and *Creseline*—the former containing, according to an English chemist (Crooke), about 4.1 per cent. of carbolic acid; the latter, little or none.

The first application of this agent, under my own observation, occurred in a case of catarrh, where the discharge was profuse, offensive, and consequently very annoying to the patient. Various remedies had been previously tried, without success. Hoping to derive advantage from its properties as a disinfectant, it was administered to the patient by inhalation, using one grain to an ounce of water, and conveyed the liquid to the affected parts by means of a steam spray-producer. The effect surpassed my most sanguine expectation. It not only relieved the fetor, but in the course of two or three inhalations changed the character of the discharge, and the patient recovered rapidly.

This induced a trial in a second case, not so serious as the first, but still severe, and the result was equally satisfactory, the symptoms all disappearing in the course of four weeks. After the first few inhalations, the patients were instructed in the use of the spray-producing apparatus, furnished with a bottle of the solution (one grain to the ounce,) and directed to inhale the vapour for ten minutes at a time, both morning and evening; enjoining upon them not to leave a warm atmosphere for half an hour after each inhalation.

It is used at the present time in the treatment of oxana, nasal polypi, and diseases of the nasal passages in which there is an offensive discharge. Even if it exerted no curative action, its power to correct fetor would be a great recommendation; but this is not all, it stimulates the ulcerated surface to a healthy action, promotes normal granulation, and thus assists in the curative process. This remedy is also employed by some of the physicians who are engaged in the special treatment of throat and lung diseases, particularly French practitioners, who direct that it should be inhaled in combination with other appropriate remedies. They speak highly of its efficacy in cases of ulcerated sore throat, chronic bronchitis, and that morbid condition of the mucous surfaces

of the air passages which give rise to a constant expectoration of a muco-purulent material. If a solution of one grain of the acid to an ounce of water does not seem to meet the indication, the quantity may be increased to five grains, or even more; but it is better to begin with a mild solution, gradually increasing the strength until the desired effect is obtained.

My next use of the acid was in a case of scarlatina, where the breath was particularly obnoxious, owing to an ulcerated condition of the throat. A gargle of two grains of the acid to an ounce of water relieved the fetor at once, and apparently proved beneficial. No other gargle or application to the throat was used.

It would seem to be appropriate in cases of diphtheria, a strong solution of the acid being used for a local medicament; its power to correct the foul breath would be an indication for its use, and its astringent and stimulating properties might prove beneficial. In cases of common sore throat (simple tonsillitis) it is found to answer admirably, with the advantage over the ordinary potassa gargles of relieving the "bad taste" and foul breath.

In the State Lunatic Asylum at Utica, it is successfully used to relieve cases of sluggishness of the bowels, accompanied by offensive breath. The dose is a drachm of a solution of one grain to the ounce (which is the house standard). A striking exemplification of the efficacy of this remedy occurred in the case of a melancholic patient admitted to this asylum. He had for a number of years suffered from attacks of dyspepsia, accompanied with acid eructations and the formation of gas. Latterly these symptoms became continuous. He complained of intense heat, and pain in the stomach; stated that the eructation of fetid gas had become unbearable; and the same smell emanated from the cutaneous surface, so that it was offensive to every one in the room. He was at once put into a warm bath, then thoroughly washed with a solution of the acid (gr. v to the ounce.) Internally two drachms of the standard solution were given three times daily for two days. At the end of this time the breath was sweet, and no unpleasant exhalation from the skin was perceptible. He was also relieved from the painful distension produced by the formation of gas in the stomach and bowels. Whenever he feels the approach of this difficulty, two or three doses of the house preparation relieve him at once from this unpleasant and painful complication.

Yeasty stomach, sometimes consequent upon a meal of rich food which produces flatulence and expulsion of gas, with a tendency to regurgitation, is usually relieved by a drachm or two of the solution above mentioned; this checks

<sup>†</sup> A variety of solutions have been put in market under the title of pure carbolic acid.