

hand, the latter process exceeds the former, destruction of tissue is the result.

The accumulation of the waste products of the pyogenic fungi occurs in the pus of abscesses, rendering it unfit for the continued growth of the fungi which produced it. The operation of the fungus thus becomes limited to the fresh exudates thrown in from the wound. This is in turn limited as the walls of the wound become more solidly packed with ameboid cells, that is, living matter which is not so readily attacked. Microbes of pus formation cannot maintain themselves continuously in contact with living healthy tissue. This is a plain proof that vitality is one of the best germicides.\* All pus, no matter where found, whether upon the surface, in closed abscesses, or situated deep within the living tissues, is filled with micro-organisms.

The aim of the modern surgeon is to obtain the healing of wounds without suppuration. To this end he eliminates all micro-organisms, and uses dressings to prevent the access of germs to the wound. The intelligent dentist applies the same principle in his treatment of exposed pulps. Chronic and acute inflammations and abscesses of the mouth are due to the same pathological conditions which produce like results elsewhere in the body.

Modern aseptic dentistry consists in sterilization by germicides, dessication, etc. A fresh wound, if made aseptic, will heal by first intention ; but if pyogenic germs are allowed to enter in any manner whatever, pus will be formed and trouble ensue, provided anti-septics are not carefully used.

In all those cases where the pulp chamber is opened for the first time, as in the removal of a living pulp, or a pulp destroyed by the operator, we should never have an abscess occur, indeed, it should be impossible except through direct infection.

An intelligent physician or dentist can now do almost anything he pleases, providing he conforms to aseptic and antiseptic methods.

In this way bacteriology may be said to have revolutionized the theory and practice of dentistry and medicine.

Aseptic treatment means to preserve a clean wound from septic infection. Antiseptic treatment simply means the prevention of further extension of existing trouble. The one may be said to prevent fire, the other to extinguish it. For a similar reason anti-septics are not disinfectants ; they do not destroy micro-organisms,