

even in 2-per-cent solution. In proportion as the foetid discharges lessen, the patient becomes more bright and cheerful. In from twelve to sixteen days he was able to remove the growth in three cases—a sarcoma of the breast, a scirrhus of the breast, and an epithelioma of the lip (recurrent), leaving in their stead healthy granulating tissue, the skin gradually growing and closing up the wounds. He has repeatedly reapplied formalin during the healing process without any effect on the granulation tissue left, thus showing that no signs of the original growth remained, for skin will not grow over unhealthy tissue. The process of separation is completed by the aid of a pair of forceps and scissors to snip the fibrous bands that pass into the underlying granulations.

The strength of formalin solution should be between $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 per cent. If weaker than this, the hardening process is not satisfactory and the application must be continued for a longer period, thus losing time, and the process is extremely painful to the patient. Likewise, if 2 per cent. is exceeded, the application is painful, the diseased mass becomes surface hardened, separation is difficult, and the risk of destroying the skin around becomes greater the stronger the solution used, until the escharotic qualities of the formalin manifest themselves.

The method of application is as follows: "Absorbent lint soaked in 2 per cent. formalin solution (made by adding 19 parts of distilled water to 1 of commercial formalin) and laid on the tumor; this is covered with jaconet and cotton wool and bandage on. The dressing should be changed six-hourly. After the third or fourth dressing the discharges and the foetor cease. The further process is an aseptic one. In three to seven days the tumor loses its elasticity and becomes darkened, friable and insensitive. The further use of formalin is painless, and separation takes place as above described. Formalin in 2-per cent. solution appears to exert a selective power on morbid tissue, or perhaps it is the tissue being more tender by virtue of its younger age and rapid growth, is less resistive to its action than the more mature tissue. It also acts as powerful stimulant, thus aiding nature to get rid of its unwelcome parasite. The treatment of the healing surface resolved itself into the ordinary method with alternate boracic fomentations or sal alembroth as occasion suggested." A. F. Meredith Powell, *British Medical Jour.*, May 30, 1903.