recommending others whose powers and potency are less known. This objection does not apply to the use of perchloride of mercury, the best of all our soluble disinfectants ; but there are certain difficulties about the use of this powerful poison which make one hesitate to put it into the hands of any but the sanitary inspectors themselves. It might so easily be used for criminal purposes, and has moreover an inconvenient action upon metals, so that in the meantime I feel shy about recommending its general adoption ; carbolic acid is also a powerful poison, but owing to its strong smell and burning taste it is not so likely to be used for criminal purposes.

It must not, however, be forgotten that even in the disease which I have chosen as typical, viz., typhoid fever, the poison may have been communicated by the patient to his immediate surroundings. The bed linen, for instance, may have been stained, the bed itself may have been saturated with discharges; carpets and bed hangings may become defiled, and excrementitious matters may have been allowed to cake on disused utensils. I emphasize these possibilities somewhat, because one so often hears the remark, pregnant with mischief, that typhoid fever is not infectious. The possibilities of infection, however, are probably very much greater than is generally supposed. There may be no great risk, there is probably none, in sitting down by the bed-side of a carefully nursed patient suffering from this disease in an airy sick-room, or in the well ventilated ward of a properly constructed hospital. But the case is altogether otherwise where an untrained nurse has allowed the sheets, and possibly the blankets of the patient, to become soiled, and where the fever poison has been "cultivated" in the warm bed, and diffused therefrom throughout the atmosphere of the apartment. It is better, therefore, that linen which has been stained should be immersed in a solution of carbolic acid, prepared in the manner already described. The bed, if much stained, should be destroyed.

To sum up briefly, I should advise you (1) to use a disinfectant only where you have some reasonable ground to believe that with it you will reach the germs of disease to be disinfected ; (2) so to use your disinfectant that it shall kill, not scotch, the snake. For this purpose, wherever it is practicable, remove the articles to be disinfected, and subject them to a heat of 220° (Fahr.) in an apparatus for the purpose. Do not be content with an outside temperature of this amount, but be certain that the exposure to heat has been for such a length of time, and under such efficient conditions that the heat shall have penetrated to the centre of the largest of the articles so treated. Remember (3) that disinfection and cleansing are two processes, and that both are necessary ; and, lastly, when in doubt, apply to your medical officer of health, and follow his advice.

VALUE OF SULPHUR FUMES.

Dr. Edson said, in Therapeutic Gazette (from N. Y. Med. Rec.): In the year from October 1, 1887, to October 1, 1888, there occured in New York three hundred and twenty-one cases of small-pox. These cases occurred in two hundred and twenty-seven houses. Eighty-two of these cases were contracted from exposure to some of the two hundred and thirty-nine original cases, nearly all of which were in their turn traced to direct exposure to other cases, either out of the city or in it. Nine cases could not be traced to their cause. They were probably due to contagion from some mild, unrecognized case, that travelled about spreading the disease. Not one single case of the disease was developed from the clothing or from the rooms in which these cases were, and from which they were removed to the hospital for small-pox. No other precaution was taken in the case of the rooms and clothing than that of fumigation by sulphur fumes—three pounds of sulphur to each one thousand cubic feet of air-space for at least two hours. This, however, was done in a most conscientious and careful manner, immediately after removal of each case.

Again, in the year from October 1, 1888, to October 1, 1889, seven cases of small-pox