

A few words before passing the subject of antiseptic mouth washes, which I wish to impress as the most important idea expressed in this essay. It is very necessary to cleanse the mouth of all the viscid acid mucus that clings to the teeth and gums and about the mouth before using a mouth lotion to get its therapeutic action. This mucus is a most excellent culture media in the mouth for the many micro-organisms that infect the mouth and the general system. How shall we cleanse it or remove it? It is thought that germicide lotions will cleanse and sterilize, but it does not. This is also not an assumption, but an assertion made after numerous practical experiments and tests with all the advantages of a bacteriological laboratory at my command. This viscid acid mucus will not absorb or combine with the antiseptic and germicide lotions of the strength used in the mouth to thoroughly sterilize it. And the toothbrush will not, or any other ordinary means remove it but to a limited extent. I earnestly urge the use of the only harmless agent known that will assist in removing and making it possible to thoroughly cleanse the teeth and gums of this infected deposit. The magnesia hydrate, $Mg. H_2, O_2$, has the most fortunate and pleasant action on this viscid acid mucus by neutralizing the acid and precipitating the mag. hyd. in a jelly-like non-clinging mass easily removed by the brush from gums and teeth and carrying away in its mass all germs and spores.

The act of just rinsing the mouth with a small quantity of this mag. hyd. and brushing the teeth places the mouth in a better condition than any mouth antiseptic lotion, and in fact prepares it for the possible therapeutical effect of the lotion that was before mere folly to use.

The 3rd Div. of Stomatocace—Stomatitis Gangrenosa. This distressing condition of the gums and the bony septums of the alveolar process is caused by poisonous medicates. The treatment must be largely systemic. But in all these cases of salivation with purulent discharges through the gums much can be done to relieve the unpleasant condition to the patient and to retard its progress, urging first cleanliness, and the constant use of a germicide lotion to prevent parasitical complications and the direct action of some powerful excarotic astringent to the gums at the places affected. After years of test and careful noting the results, I feel sure that sulphuric acid in about 12 to 20 per cent. applied to the gums down to the process *immediately after the application* of a good syringing out of these pockets and purulent places with hyd. dioxide, surely gives the best result of all. Do not use any application until these spaces between the gums and the teeth are free from pus, and then apply the acid solution on a thin piece of orange wood. I have never discovered the benefits of carbolic acid in a mouth lotion, or in direct treatment of any lesion or dis-