

A NEW UNIVERSAL DISINFECTING POWDER is being brought into use. It claims the approval of health officers and others, on the grounds of its cheapness, its great efficiency, its convenient form, its perfect solubility, its absence of colour, and its freedom from all unpleasant odour. It is rapid and effective in action, and may be used freely in powder or solution for the disinfection of drains, sewers, cesspools, for urinals and closets, and for all the purposes of disinfection in houses and hospitals. It is composed chiefly of *calcii chlorid.*, *zinci. sulph.* and *sodii chlorid.*, so that when water is added to it a partial decomposition takes place by which chloride of zinc is formed in the solution. It acts powerfully as a deodorant and disinfectant by stopping those changes in organic matter which give rise to putrefication and to disease. It is analogous to carbolic acid in its action and can be used in all cases where that unpleasant smelling disinfectant has hitherto been employed.

ARSENICAL ROOM-PAPERS.—Dr. Hodges, (*Sanitary Record*), at a late meeting of the Chemico-Agricultural Society of Ulster, referred to a case of arsenical poisoning in Belfast, in which a paper-dealer was sued for damages in consequence of the serious illness and expense for medical attendance occasioned in a gentleman's family by poisonous room-papers purchased from the dealer. The danger was fully proved, but the Recorder ruled that, as there was no proof the freedom from arsenic had been guaranteed, a verdict must be given to the defendant. In Germany and France the use of such papers is prohibited, with severe penalties, and should not be permitted in any country. Dr. Hodges stated that both light and dark green papers may be coloured with arsenical pigments.

THE MORTALITY in the liberties of the city of London, (*Brit. Med. Journal*), within and without the walls, was equal to 430 per 1,000 in 1665, the year of the great plague; whereas in the cholera year 1849, the most remarkable English epidemic year of modern times, the death-rate in London did not exceed 30 per 1,000. This represents remarkable sanitary progress, although the range in the death-rates during the decade 1861-70—between 15 and 39 per 1,000 in the 600 districts of England—conclusively proves how much sanitary work wanted doing in 1870, the bulk of which still remains to be done.

IN LONDON (Eng.), all the cabmen's shelters are now thrown open, free of charge for admission.