

medium, in which no person could remain for a few moments without risk. But the actual facts do not confirm this, but lead to the *a priori* idea that the infective matter is unequally distributed. The virus of vaccinia has been preserved either in a liquid or a solid medium, but our limits here preclude our giving the methods of testing the action of disinfectants detailed in Dr. Baxter's interesting report. The nature of the medium in which the particles, septic or contagious, are suspended has a modifying influence of a striking kind on them and their susceptibility to disinfectant means. Thus the alkalinity of the virulent media impairs the power of chlorine as a disinfectant, and albumen also neutralises its effect.

But we may here give a general *résumé* of the inferences from Dr. Baxter's researches. First the disinfectant powers of carbolic acid, sulphur dioxide, potassic permanganate, and chlorine are various; and on the nature of the medium through which the infective matter is distributed greatly depends the disinfectant operations, especially of chlorine and permanganate of potash. A virulent liquid cannot be regarded as completely disinfected by sulphur dioxide, unless it has been rendered permanently and completely acid. This agent, from its greater solubility, is preferable to chlorine and carbolic acid for the disinfection of liquid media. "No virulent liquid can be considered disinfected by carbolic acid unless it contains 2 per cent. by weight of the pure acid." Disinfectants should be well incorporated with a liquid, and no solid matters should be overlooked. Aërial disinfection is useless or objectionable, owing to the false sense of security it affords. Thus, to make the air of a room smell of carbolic acid by scattering the powder about the floor, or of chlorine, by a tray of chloride of lime, is futile as regards the destruction of the specific contagia. Sulphur dioxide is considered more effectual than chlorine or carbolic vapour for aërial disinfection. The space to be disinfected should be kept saturated with the gas for a sufficient time, not less than an hour. Virulent particles must be considered as shielded by an envelope of dried albuminous matter. "It is probable that all contagia disappear sooner or later under the influence of air and moisture, and that the absence of these may act as a preservative." "Dry heat is probably the most efficient of all disinfectants." But the desired temperature must be distributed equally over the space to be disinfected: this has been established by Dr. Ransome, and the particles should be exposed to the heat either for a sufficient time, or to a certain degree of heat. These conclusions are important additions to our knowledge of disinfect-