

It is for this reason that I recommend so strongly a liquid disinfectant, as giving better results all round, and insuring a more perfect disinfection ; for any individual can see at a glance if a surface has been dosed with a liquid disinfectant, whereas in the case of a gaseous disinfectant no one can tell by the ordinary sense of sight, whether or not a surface has escaped disinfection. It may be as well to note that all those places which have been plastered over with the paper strips are of such a nature as to allow of an application of a liquid disinfectant ; and it should always be applied before the paper is pasted on, otherwise an infected surface covered up with a pasted strip is protected from the gaseous disinfectant, and when the paper is stripped off again, the underlying surface remains still infectious.

As regards the generation of the Formaldehyde gas, two methods are in popular favour :—

The first, and better method, is by placing in a bowl, or regular receptacle sold for this purpose (Exhibit No. 1.39), a certain quantity of Permanganate of Potash crystals, and then adding a definite quantity of Formalin solution ; a double chemical decomposition takes place with a rapid liberation of Formaldehyde gas. Of course as soon as the operator has completed the mixture, he will have to leave the room quickly, and paste up the door through which he has made his exit.

In the second method, the gas is generated by boiling the Formalin solution in a copper boiler (Exhibit No. 1.36) ; the gas, and accompanying steam, are conducted through a rubber tube leading from the boiler ; this tubing can be passed through the keyhole of a door, so that the boiling process can be controlled outside the room. The drawback to this method is that where the room to be disinfected is very large, it takes a long time before the requisite strength of Formaldehyde gas can be obtained in the air of the room ; and if the room be not air-tight, one may go on indefinitely introducing the gas into the room without it reaching the requisite strength—resulting in imperfect disinfection.