

infected in one of three ways according to the quality of the goods. Either boiled, or steamed over boiling water for from ten minutes to half an hour, or to be soaked in a bichloride solution 1.1000 for an hour.

In regard to mattresses, carpets and pillows the only effectual method is by the use of a large steam sterilizer, such as that in use at the isolating hospital in Toronto.

These articles cannot be treated satisfactorily at home. The Health Department should for a small fee undertake to do this work for the public. Excluding this method, let the articles in question, be heaped loosely on the floor and sulphur in proper quantities be burned. Afterwards let them be hung in the open air, well beaten and allowed to remain for several weeks.

Any article that is worthless should be burned. All expectorated matter, or cloths saturated with expectorated matter should be destroyed. Some authorities claim that they should be disinfected before burning.

2. This class will include diseases, the contagion of which is not so virulent, such as measles, pertussis, erysipelas, pyæmia, etc. Disinfection here should consist in burning sulphur in proper quantity in the room, having first arranged all the clothing and bedding in such a way that the gas will have free access to all parts. Afterwards thorough ventilation. Any clothing or bedding in contact with the person of the patient should be either boiled, steamed or soaked in a bi-chloride solution.

3. The diseases in which the contagion is contained in the bowel discharges, such as typhoid and cholera. All passages should be disinfected in the chamber before emptying, by the use of a solution of chlorinated lime. \bar{z} iv. of the best commercial chlorinated lime should be dissolved in one gallon of water, and a pint of this used with each passage. They should be mixed well and allowed to stand ten minutes before emptying. In country places, or where there is no system of water works, they should be buried as far as possible from the water supply. It is a serious mistake to empty them into privy pits.

Any clothing or bedding which has been in contact with the patient should be boiled, steamed or soaked in a 1 in 1000 bi-chloride solution. To protect the mattresses in these cases, it is an excellent

plan to stretch a Mackintosh or any waterproof material under the sheet on which the patient lies.

DIPHTHERIA.*

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Mr. President and Gentlemen,—It is not my intention to go into the whole subject of diphtheria in this paper, but only to consider a few points of practical importance relating to the spread and prevention of the disease. I bring the subject up in this form in the hope that the discussion following may tend to settle certain points and give us a more definite idea concerning them. It has been held for a long time that those not suffering from diphtheria in their own person could not carry it. This statement is made by a writer in "Reynold's System of Medicine," but as that was written before the germ of diphtheria was discovered, and as our theories have changed a great deal since that time, the author's opinions may have altered with the times. But more recently, Dr. Forchheimer, in the *International Clinics* for April, '91, says: "I know very well that the statement of eminent bacteriologists at the last International Medical Congress at Berlin, was, that diphtheria can be carried by clothes, cooking utensils, articles of food, etc., but I have certain reasons to doubt this. As these reasons were not given, I do not know what they are, but I intend to bring before you histories showing conclusively that such a person may carry diphtheria, and in the cases I bring forward, actually did do so.

In April, '88, diphtheria broke out in Markham township, in a poor family, there were two deaths and two or three recoveries. The family, lived in a small old frame house, which, after the children recovered, they vacated, to save the trouble of cleaning, and moved to a similar house of one story and three or four rooms about one quarter mile distant. After they moved, the father of the family, a farm laborer, who had not had diphtheria himself, went to work for a neighboring farmer. This farmer's child took diphtheria after a few days, and died. The farmer's wife took it, and had a very severe attack, but recovered. This man then went to

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