intensity.

The question of infection is one of the most subtle and difficult in medicine, and has called forth the most decided and opposite opinions from writers on the subject dents, and nurses, who had not had typhus, continued for ot fever. As infection is known only by its effects, and four or five months to visit without being taken ill, this eludes any attempt to subject it to experiment, it is, in might be considered a proof that the fluid perfectly deconsequence, allowable to call in the aid of theory, as stroyed infection. To use the fluid in part of the hoslong as this is reasonable, and not at variance with facts.

introduced sparingly, and the grounds on which they visiting these, and be there infected. In the past season rest fairly stated, they are admitted to be part of the I had not an opportunity of making a trial like the above, process by which the knowledge of the truth is attained, as, generally speaking, the physicians and nurses had even in the most strictly inductive sciences; and those already had fever. who profess to reject and despise them, are not those whose opinions are the most exempt from their influence."

sick-rooms, and particularly so where the disease is infectious : he also considers that this ammonia is the vehicle of the infectious principle, and what renders it volatile, so that if the ammonia be removed, the infectious tion, &c.; half of them were in the stone building; in essence ceases to act. By freely using the chloride of zinc solution in a sick room, the ammonia becomes muriate of ammonia, and the air of the apartment is, according to this theory, completely disinfected : this is ber of deaths in those wards, and compared this, and the presuming, that all the air in the room has been brought number of inmates, with the total mortality and total under the action of the chloride of zinc solution.

If the chloride of zinc has not been sufficiently used, there may still remain some infectious principle, but in a degree much less intense, so that-to take a crowded typhus-ward-instead of many visitors to it being attacked, and this with a severe form of the disease, only a few are attacked, and that slightly.

We may also theorize on the effect of the fluid on the patients themselves. We suppose, for example, a person has received one dose of infection, giving him typhus fever; he then comes into a crowded typhus ward, where he and the others are constantly emitting infectious miasm from their lungs and the surface of their bodies; this is respired by them over and over again, so that instead of there being one, there are two chances against them; instead of the original quantity of infection to which they were exposed, they continue compared the deaths in the fluidized wards with the toto inhale additional doses of it during their illness; now, if by using the fluid we wholly, or even only partly, remove the typhous principle in the air, we are giving them a better chance of recovery. ‡ Likewise, during convalescence, if the air in the ward be tolerably pure, the had been used, and that after this, the mortality became digestion and appetite of the patients improve much less, some might say that this arose from the disease bemore rapidly than if the atmosphere be foul; their coming milder; but, in the instance given above, the strength returns more quickly, and their convalescence experiment is more decided, the trial is clearer, and the is much shorter; they run less chance of a relapse, and the hospital gains their beds to accommodate new patients.

By using the fluid, the medical attendants, students,

either. 1-destroys infection, or, 2-greatly lessens its | and nurses, are either protected from infection, or at least run much less risk of being taken ill.

If we had a fever hospital, throughout the whole of which the fluid was daily used, and if physicians, stupital only, would not be sufficient, as air from non-fluid. As Professor Alison* observes, —" If hypotheses are ized wards might be admitted, or the nurses might be

In the autumn of 1847, in the Quebec Marine and Emigrant Hospital, I had the fluid used (latterly) in seventeen wards and sheds containing 317 patients, (being According to Liebig. + ammonia is always generated in about a third of the whole number in the hospital,) of whom about two-thirds were ill of typhus, and the remainder of dysentery. When I began visiting them, these wards were the worst in the hospital for ventila. other respects they were situated similarly to the other wards and sheds. I had the fluid used once a day, in the way of waving and sprinkling, and I daily noted the numsick of the hospital as published weekly in the newspapers. Thus, for the week ending 4th September, in the wards where the fluid was not used, there was one death in about every nine patients; and in the wards where the fluid was employed, there was one death in about every fourteen sick.

> On account of having to be occasionally abtent from Quebec for a day or two, I was unable to note daily for any great length of time continuously, the mortality in the fluidized wards; but I have no reason to doubt that while the fluid was used, there was a difference in the comparative mortality somewhat like what is stated above. The difference is one too great to have depended on accidental circumstances, and I do not see to what it can be attributed, except to using the chloride of zinc solution. It was not till the middle of January that I tal mortality as published in the newspapers, when I was greatly delighted to find that my exertions had had such beneficial results. If we suppose the case of a fever-hospital, throughout the whole of which the fluid mortality in fluidized wards, is compared with that in non-fluidized wards, between the same dates.

> IV. Chloride of zinc has been given inwardly in the dose of a grain or less, two or three times a day, in chorea, epilepsy, &c.*

^{*} Physiology, page 1.

⁺ Chemistry applied to Agriculture and Physiology, chap. 13. In different hospitals in Ireland, it was found by Mr. Cronin, Dr. Lindsay, and Mr. Drummond, that the mortality became less on the Solution of Chloride of Zinc, page 20, 21, and 23.

^{*} See Periera's Materia Medica, London, 1842, page 820 Dunglison's New Remedies, Philadelphia, 1846, page 600. And after they began to use the chloride of zinc solution. See Report Wood and Bache's U. S. Dispensatory, Philadelphia, 1847, page 1215,