

is quite possible to do away with this source of infection by simply brushing over the paper with gasoline before writing on it in infected houses; or, in case of a letter coming from a suspected source, adopting a similar procedure before reading it. Books, journals, and newspapers, which have been used by fever patients, or kept in their apartments, may be disinfected in the same way without being in the slightest degree injured. Here is a proof. This little book has been perfectly saturated with gasoline, and every leaf is capable of oxidizing and destroying any organic poison that may fall on it, and yet it is not in the slightest degree soiled or stained. The most delicate wall paper may be brushed over with it without injury, and so may articles of wearing apparel of every description. This property suggests a ready and efficient mode of disinfecting the clothing of doctors and nurses when they are in attendance on persons suffering from infectious diseases. The hands, also, may be disinfected by sponging them over with gasoline and allowing them to dry in the air.

My common plan of using it is to have it exposed in open vessels—saucers answer very well—in every room in houses in which infectious diseases prevailed. About a wine-glassfull is sufficient to be used at a time, and this may be repeated three or four times in the course of the day. The only precaution that is necessary is to guard against using it near a fire or light, and this, on account of its highly inflammable nature, must never be forgotten. I may say that during the last two years I have had abundant proof that peroxide of hydrogen, when properly applied to the surface of the body, is capable of destroying the poison germs of scarlet fever, and thus arresting the spread of the disease.

All the disinfectants to which I have directed your attention this evening possess the property, in common with gasoline, of not only generating peroxide of hydrogen when first exposed to the air, but of doing so continuously for a period extending over months and sometimes years. By way of illustration, I will show you a sheet of demy paper which was brushed over with eucalyptus oil obtained from the *Odorata* species, on April 22nd, 1874—more than a year ago—and a sheet of paper brushed over with kerosene on the same date. The tests have been applied to them, and you may see that their reactions have been most vigorous.

In conclusion, I will show you that certain kinds of wood, more particularly those of the pine species, are possessed of disinfecting properties. This is due, I have little doubt, to the turpentine they contain. It has been shown on many occa-