

of oil also facilitates the development of anærobic bacteria which cause the rapid liquefaction of solids, thus rendering them quite unsuitable as a breeding ground for Diptera. In the case of manure heaps this oil may be mixed with earth, lime, and fossil phosphates, in which state it is sprinkled (preferably in the spring) over all sources likely to tempt young couples of the Diptera family to start housekeeping and the rearing of a family.—*Sc. Am.*

A FEW months ago attention was called in these columns to a method of producing anesthesia by means of blue light. It was not claimed for the method that it would answer for any but minor surgical operations; still it seemed sufficiently promising for the painless extraction of teeth. The patient was submerged, as it were, in a bath of blue light. The rays, it was thought, influenced the brain through the optic nerve. Perhaps there was also something of hypnosis in this supposed effect.

Dr. J. C. Watkins, a southern dentist, has conducted some experiments which have certainly added much to a true conception of the cause and effect of bluelight anesthesia. He used the blue light, not for the extraction of teeth, but for "the reduction of swelling and the alleviation of pain." The system that he advocates is simple. It consists merely in applying the blue rays directly to the part affected.

The apparatus which he employs comprises a sixteen-candle-power blue electric light globe arranged in a funnel-shaped tin shield, which at its mouth is about four inches in diameter. This is extended about four inches, and has at its end a ground blue glass and convex lens. The ground blue glass is used to disseminate the blue rays so that the patient may not know the simplicity of the apparatus; no especial virtue is to be attributed to the lens.

A clinical history of cases which he has treated and which he has enumerated and discussed in the Dental Cosmos more than bear out the doctor's claims for the anesthetic effect of blue rays.

Still another method of producing anesthesia is that of Prof. Leduc, whose studies with electric currents of low tension have attracted not a little attention. Dr. Louise G. Robinovitch, of New York, one of his assistants, has continued his work and has recently published the results of her investigations. Thus far chiefly animals have been used for experimentation. With 110 interruptions per second, the animal receiving about 1.3 milliamperes, at 5 1-2 volts, complete anesthesia results. The