

combination of the dead oil of coal tar, sesquichloride of iron, and other substances. For the disinfection of low damp places, cellars, and sinks, the sesquichloride of iron is invaluable. Condy's fluid, which can be made on a small scale by mixing together two ounces of red lead, two ounces of common salt, and four ounces of oil of vitriol, is a powerful antiseptic agent.

The second class, namely, disinfectants effecting chemical decomposition, may be enumerated as lime, chlorine, sulphurous acid, sulphate of copper, chloride of zinc, soda, permanganate of potash, bromine, etc. These substances work by oxidation of the offensive substance, or by destruction of the germ. This is seen most markedly when the permanganate of potash is used, when the black oxide of manganese is thrown down as a fine powder. Chloride of lime is one of the best disinfectants, either alone or with other substances. When it is used in damp places, it should be mixed with carbonate of soda. Sesquichloride of iron is especially indicated for privy vaults where there is evolution of sulphuretted hydrogen gas. The sulphur is precipitated, while the hydrogen is set free. The iron acts most energetically as a check to fermentation. Most of these disinfecting substances owe their efficacy to the chlorine contained, and probably those emitting the largest quantities are the best.

Sulphurous acid, formed by the combustion of sulphur, stands unrivalled as the most perfect disinfectant of rooms and buildings impregnated with the germ of the eruptive fevers. In small pox, scarlatina, and measles, particularly, the room occupied by the patient should be well fumigated by this substance. For the prevention of the spread of cholera and the inflammatory diseases of the alimentary canal, carbolic acid and chlorine are the best.

Absorbent deodorizers are the third class, and consist of substances that merely absorb the effluvia from putrid and decaying matters. Such are charcoal, both animal and vegetable, and dry earth. A cheap variety of bone charcoal has lately been used which is mixed with peat. All of these substances must be finely pulverized and dried. Dry earth has proved its extraordinary virtues in the patent earth closet, and in the hospitals of Philadelphia. At the latter place it was found not only to absorb the septic matter from wounds, but to destroy all traces of odor in the wards.

There are many household agents that are constantly used.