

Association propose to appeal to the Legislature for amendments to the Act. Evidently they have not confidence in their confreres throughout the Province, or they would submit to the verdict of the profession at the next election.

DISINFECTION.

As in the past, so in our days, earth, air, fire, and water are nature's own means of destroying noxious matter, but they must be given fair play. Among chemical disinfectants, sulphurous acid answers well when used in the presence of moisture for many hours; chlorine, if used twice over, is also efficacious. Walls, if papered, should be stripped and re-papered; if kalsomined, they should be re-kalsomined. Floors and all wood-work should be cleansed with hot soap-suds, and then washed with a solution of 3 in 1,000 bichloride of mercury, acidulated with 5 in 1,000 hydrochloric acid.

Thorough exposure to a temperature of 230° F. and especially to superheated steam, is, however, always the best disinfection when practicable. A trial of the new steam disinfector which has been constructed for the use of the Medical Health Department of this city, was made on the 12th inst. at the Isolation Hospital, Toronto.

The McEvoy steam disinfector, as many of our readers are aware, was first used here in January, 1892, when diphtheria was prevalent in Toronto. It was in continued use during the months of February, March, June and July, at which time the mortality from diphtheria fell to seven per month. Subsequently, owing to the absence of any suitable or reliable steam disinfector at Grosse Isle, it was removed to that quarantine station and proved very serviceable in disinfecting the clothes and bedding of immigrants just arriving in Canada from abroad.

A larger and more perfectly made steam disinfector has been built to replace this one, and it may be described as follows: It consists of a boiler plate cylinder, about 4 feet 6 inches by 11 feet in length, open at both ends. Surrounding this cylinder is another one about three inches larger in diameter. The space between the two forms a jacket, which is air-tight. Both the jacket and

the inside chamber are connected to a vertical boiler 38 x 72 inches, and steam can be admitted to either at pleasure. In a galvanized iron cage, duplicated when necessary, are deposited the articles to be disinfected. Connected with the chamber is a 6 x 8 x 12-inch vacuum pump, which will maintain a vacuum of about 21 inches of mercury, equivalent to about 10 pounds per square inch. Over the ends of the cylinder are fitted tight cast-iron covers, which are hollow, and can be filled with steam. The covers are held to their seats by 1-inch screw bolts, and the joints are made steam-tight by rubber packing which is tight, easily managed and quite durable. The covers are suspended from railway rails by two wheel trucks, and when unfastened from the drum are drawn back by block and tackle. To prevent recontamination of disinfected articles, the entrance door of the cylinder is in one room and the exit in another.

In operating, the articles to be disinfected are placed in the wire cage and run inside the chamber, the covers are screwed in place, connected with the steam pipes, and steam is admitted to the jacket and covers only. When the temperature of the jacket has risen to about 260° F., the vacuum pump is started, and a vacuum of from 8 to 10 pounds produced in the drum. The effect of this is to rarefy the air in the pores of the articles to be disinfected, and thus permit of the ready entrance of the steam. When a sufficient vacuum has been obtained, the pump is shut off and live steam admitted into the disinfecting chamber. As the temperature of the covers of the cylinder is considerably above 212° F., there is no condensation of steam, and the steam is practically dry. Owing to the partial vacuum previously produced in the pores of the clothing, the steam finds little difficulty in penetrating to their innermost recesses. After an exposure of from fifteen minutes to half an hour, depending upon the size of the articles, the steam is run out of the chamber and the vacuum pump again put in operation, in order to draw as much steam as possible out of the disinfected articles. The cover in the exit room is then uncoupled and run back, and the cage drawn out. On first exposure to the cold air, the clothing feels rather damp, but after a few minutes it becomes entirely dry.