

this class of drugs would supply far more material than I would have time to place before you, so the presentation must necessarily be more superficial than minute. In this age of investigation and theory regarding micro-organisms, the subject of antiseptics must be important to the dentist. Antiseptics are medicinal agents which have the power of preventing the formation of putrefactive and fermentative changes, while disinfectants destroy these germs.

As the division of remedies into these two classes is more theoretical than practical, as far as a dentist is concerned, we may consider the drugs we will discuss belong to both, and will destroy as well as prevent. You will agree with me that antiseptics are the most important class of drugs to the dental practitioner, as without antiseptics no dentist can conscientiously practise his chosen profession. There are many drugs in our *materia medica* classified under this head, but there are several new ones which have not yet been accorded that dignity. One of the newest, and in my humble opinion, the best for general purposes is

ARISTOL,

or to give it its proper name, Dithymol-Biniiodide. This remedy was discovered in a laboratory of Elberfeld, Germany; prepared by pouring an aqueous solution of potassium iodide into an alkaline solution of thymol, which gives a reddish-brown amorphous precipitate; has no unpleasant odor, is non-irritating, non-poisonous, insoluble in water, alcohol and glycerine, but soluble in chloroform, ether, essential oils, and slightly so in campho-phenique; infinitely safer than bichloride of mercury and less irritating than carbolic acid; contains 14.8 per cent. iodine, which it readily yields up. This property, Dr. E. C. Kirk says, is perhaps the key to much of its therapeutic value, affording, by decomposition in the presence of purulent secretions, a means for the presentation of iodine in the nascent state, in which condition its well-known antiseptic and germicidal properties are most active. Aristol is similar to iodoform, but has not its disgusting and suspicious odor, nor its toxic properties. A chloroform solution on cotton is a very pleasant and efficient substitute for sandarac as a wedge or temporary filling. It is entirely antiseptic, and after remaining for a week, has no unpleasant odor or taste. A thick chloroform solution makes a very good capping varnish flowed on paper, asbestos, felt, sheep-