

thod of dealing with infectious diseases, such as diphtheria, typhoid fever, and probably others, will be satisfactory and efficient which does not take notice of the importance of these so-called healthy contacts, who yet harbor virulent organisms, as a factor in the spread of these diseases. But the difficulty arises when we come to consider how to deal with these disease carriers. This is a problem which is engaging the attention of public health experts all over the world, and has not yet received satisfactory solution."

Hygienic Precautions in British Shaving Saloons.

Dr. Wolstenholme, medical adviser to the Salford, England, Hairdressers' Association, lately gave a lecture to the members, in which he dealt with what is known as a "clean shave"; he meant one that not only made a person look clean, but which left no disease behind it, and to this end the hands and all the appliances of the barber, as well as the face of the customer, must be free from germs which cause disease. He next gave a popular account of the general characters of bacteria, and pointed out that most of the diseases of special importance to hairdressers were due to germs which are always to be found on the skin, lips, hands, and mouth of both the hairdresser and the customer, and that to cause local disease there must be some abrasion or some irritation of the skin. It was also probable that the health of the person infected must be in some peculiar condition. The germs might be carried by any of the appliances used by the barber, such as towels, brushes, the fingers used in lathering, the razor, sponges, etc. He understood that the British Hairdressers' Association had made arrangements with the university authorities to make a full bacteriological inquiry to find out which of the barber's implements it was that carried the infection. In order to destroy the germs, he pointed out either heat or antiseptics might be used, but that both must be of considerable strength, and used for a sufficient length of time. Probably the best plan for all the instruments was to boil them for at least twenty minutes, and some inexpensive arrangement for use with a gas burner should be obtained. Towels should only be used once, and then washed and thoroughly boiled. The razor should be wiped, not on bits of newspaper, but

on fresh pieces off a sanitary roll, and it should be sterilized by boiling for at least five minutes. A number of brushes and sponges should be kept, boiled each time after use, and then kept in a solution of 1 in 20 carbolic acid, or 1 in 1,000 perchloride of mercury, and rinsed out in boiling water before use. Some useful hints were then given as to the fitting up of a shop with a view to antiseptic precautions. Particular stress was laid on the fact that after a slight abrasion customers might often infect themselves by rubbing their faces with a dirty hand or handkerchief. As a styptic for a cut there was nothing better for general use than calcined alum applied on a piece of sterilized cotton wool. As far as ringworm was concerned, for practical purposes the barbers should act as if it were possible for ringworm of the chin to be caught from ringworm of the head or body. Combs should be soaked in 1 in 20 carbolic acid and rinsed before use, while scissors and clippers should first be taken to pieces and then sterilized by boiling. Referring to prosecutions against hairdressers, Dr. Wolstenholme said that in every case it was absolutely necessary for the barber to be able to prove that he had taken every possible precaution in sterilizing his implements and using antiseptics to prevent the possible spread of disease.

Commenting on the above lecture, the *British Medical Journal* says: "The interest taken in the use of aseptic and antiseptic methods has no doubt been stimulated by actions for damages brought against hairdressers. In some cases claims for damages made on account of skin diseases said to have been caused by foul shaves have little ground in fact, and in most cases there must be the greatest difficulty in proving that a shave was the direct cause of disease, apart from any pre-existing causes present on the customer's face. The possibility, however, is such that the hairdressers' associations throughout the country are evidently roused to the necessity of using more scientific methods."

The Dental Situation in Germany.

In an address awhile ago before a gathering of physicians in Berlin, Professor Dr. Jessen presented a review of the dental situation in Germany, the speaker being recognized as the leading authority on the subject in all Europe. "Until about the