

by its local influence. The vomica of a phthisical lung contains two elements: (a) the muco-pus already secreted, and lying more or less free in the cavity; and (b) less perfectly formed and separated mucus, still attached to the pyogenic or secreting surface. As atmospheric air laden with germs is constantly entering with the breath into these cavities, and as this animal mucus is a fertile soil for these germs to develop in, it is almost certain that such tendency to settle and multiply upon it exists; and the power of carbolic acid to prevent such life and growth would well explain its efficacy. But it is also known that carbolic acid does in some way prevent the rapid production of new pus and mucus cells, and in this way, too, some of its good influence may be exerted. But, whatever the explanation, there is no doubt that the use of carbolic acid in the form of vapour is a distinct addition to our therapeutical resources in the treatment of this disease. Many years ago tar-vapour was in much repute for the same purpose. The greater efficacy of carbolic acid is probably due partly to its purity and partly to the greater concentration in it of the active detergent principle, upon the presence of which the beneficial influence on the disease depends.

I will only detain you further to-day by mentioning one other form of medical disease in which carbolic acid is of some small help to us: I allude to those disorders of the stomach which are not only accompanied with fermentation and the flatulence induced thereby, but which show the actual presence of another form of low vegetable life. In the decomposing contents of the stomach in some of these cases may be detected by the microscope immense numbers of a small vegetable growth called *Sarcina ventriculi*. These little bodies are observed in clusters of adherent cells arranged in squares, each square containing four, or some multiple of this number, and they often present an appearance which may be roughly likened to that of corded woolpacks. In cases of this singular disease, some advantage is occasionally derived from the administration by the mouth of carbolic acid in doses of one or two grains; but as the presence of these bodies is usually, unfortunately, only the result and

accompaniment of other and more serious change, its efficacy is generally proportionately slight.

I may mention to you that when carbolic acid is very freely applied to the surface of the body for any length of time, the urine is apt to become stained of a dark or blackish colour. But although this symptom is one which at once challenges attention, it appears to be of no real or serious importance, and at once disappears on the withdrawal of the producing cause.—*London Lancet*.

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HINTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF ETHER-VAPOUR.—Dr. Cheever, in the course of some clinical remarks published in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, gives some useful hints on the management of the administration of ether, which are particularly valuable as coming from a medical centre in which ether has long been regarded as the anæsthetic *par excellence*. "When the head of an etherised patient is allowed to fall too low, you will invariably find that trouble begins. The tongue naturally gravitates backwards, because the patient has no muscular control over it. Whenever this happens, stertorous breathing will at once be heard. It will then be necessary simply to raise the patient's head. The tongue comes forward, and respiration again becomes easy. There is another condition in which an etherised patient becomes tetanic. He has opisthotonos, draws himself forcibly and convulsively backward, and his movements are spasmodic. In such a case, the need is air, and the ether should be withdrawn. If he throw himself back with great force, turn him on his side, and the condition will pass off. Our patient is nauseated. After he has vomited, he will go to sleep easily."

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TURPENTINE EXTERNALLY IN VARIOLA.—Dr. Farr of Lambeth claims that turpentine relieves smarting or irritation, corrects unpleasant odours, arrests pustulation, and modifies, and often entirely prevents pitting. It also tends to prevent the spread of infection. Dr. Farr uses 1 part of turpentine to 3 or 4 of olive oil, applied by means of a feather, night and morning.