

**RESUME OF RESULTS OF RECENT RE-
SEARCHES OF THE COMMITTEE
ON DISINFECTANTS OF THE
AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION.**

THE following extract from a report of the Committee on Disinfectants of the American Public Health Association, clearly conveys the distinction between disinfectants, deodorants and antiseptics. It is an exposition of what we may term the latest sanitary gospel, and abounds in practical suggestions, the value of which at the present time, in view of the possible invasion of this country by cholera in the near future, can not be over-estimated.

OBJECT OF DISINFECTION.

The object of *disinfection* is to prevent the extension of infectious diseases by destroying the specific infectious material which gives rise to them. This is accomplished by the use of *disinfectants*.

There can be no partial disinfection of such material ; either its infecting power is destroyed or it is not. In the latter case there is a failure to disinfect. Nor can there be any disinfection in the absence of infectious material.

It has been proved for several kinds of infectious material that its specific infecting power is due to the presence of living micro-organisms, known in a general way as 'disease germs ;' and practical sanitation is now based upon the belief that the infecting agents in all kinds of infectious material are of this nature. Disinfection, therefore, consists essentially in the destruction of disease germs.