

or irritating, and is tasteless and odorless. A 16 per cent. solution in water has proved excellent in treating abscess of the antrum.

The old-time favorite creosote has, in my practice, given place to less pungent drugs. The only place I ever use it is in combination with tannic acid in cases where I cannot remove all the fibres of a pulp, and even here guaiacol is to be preferred.

The essential oils are valuable where stronger and more irritating agents are not necessary, and because their action is more enduring than watery forms of antiseptics. The most commonly used are cloves, cajepit, cinnamon, eucalyptol and wintergreen.

Bichlorid of mercury is, in spite of the sneers of the men who call it "bed-bug poison," still, perhaps, without a peer as a germicide. The offensive smell may be overcome by the use of a little rosewater. Use 1 part in 1,000 parts of water; it is the best bath for instruments that can be used. Dr. W. D. Miller, after his experiments, placed it at two hundred times stronger than pure carbolic acid, and advises its use even in 2 per cent. solution in cavities before filling. Combined with peroxide of hydrogen its use is indicated in abscess and pyorrhœa. The objections urged against the bichlorid are its poisonous nature, its smell and its tendency to change chemically. The dilute form in which it is used should not, however, result in any harm, and if prepared with ammonia chloride a solution may be made at any time required.

Thymol is a favorite substitute for creosote and carbolic acid, having, according to most authorities, equal power as an antiseptic without the unpleasant smell. Combined with glycerol it makes a most effective treatment for putrescent conditions of pulps or in any suppurating condition found in the mouth.

One of the most valuable remedies in dental medicine is hydrogen peroxid. Apart from any chemical action on diseased tissues, its purely mechanical services in cleansing by effervescence in contact with pus is of great value to the dentist. Professor Miller places it next to bichlorid in the list of antiseptics. One great point in its favor is the fact that it may be used without fear, as it is harmless to healthy tissues. It should not be injected into an abscess cavity from which there is not plenty of room for the escape of the gases evolved.

Lately, in the treatment of putrescent conditions I have pinned my faith to peroxide of sodium. Dr. Kirk says of this article: "Sodium peroxid is the chemical analogy of the well-known hydrogen peroxid, with several advantages. It is a white solid, strongly alkaline and caustic. It is easily maintained by keeping it from the air, and the solution may be made at any time. It contains thirteen times as much available oxygen as the H_2O of commerce, which can be prepared from it for immediate use by adding to it any dilute acid in proper proportion.