

determine the value of corrosive sublimate as a disinfectant for fæces, and, if useless, whether this is due to the formation of inert insoluble compounds of mercury with the fæces; and, further, to determine the relative value of certain other disinfectants used for this purpose. The solutions used were mixed with the fæces, and after a certain time culture media were inoculated from this mixture, and thus it was determined whether the mixture was sterile or not.

Standard solutions of disinfectants to be tested were made after the following formulæ:—

R Corrosive subl.,	ʒij.
Water,	Cj.
R Chlde. of lime (U.S.P.),	ʒiv.
Water,	Cj.
R Sulphate of iron,	ʒxviiij.
Water,	Cj.
R Corrosive subl.,	ʒij.
Tartaric acid,	ʒx.
Water,	Cj.
R Hydrochloric acid,	1 per cent. (ʒx to Cj).
R Corrosive subl.,	ʒij.
Hydrochloric acid.	ʒx.
Water,	Cj.
R Carbolic acid,	5 per cent. (ʒl to Cj).
R Corrosive subl.,	ʒij.
Potass. permang.,	ʒij.
Water,	Cj.

At a test-mixture, normal fæces were used thoroughly mixed with about two-thirds their bulk of decomposing urine. One part of this test-mixture was mixed with two parts of the disinfecting solution. The conclusions drawn from his experiments were as follow:—

The best disinfectants to use are the bichloride with hydrochloric acid, the bichloride with potassium permanganate, and chloride of lime.

Five-per-cent. solutions of carbolic acid and two-tenth-per-cent. solutions of the bichloride are unreliable, even when used in the proportion of one pint to every one hundred cubic centimetres of dejection.

Emphasis needs to be laid on the necessity of thorough disintegration of the fæcal matter by stirring it with the disinfectant, and on the need of allowing the mixture to stand four hours at least before emptying.

For continued use the bichloride solutions would injure lead pipe, while used for a few days only probably no injury would result. For long-continued use, where the dejections are thrown into a water-closet, chloride of lime is undoubtedly the most available disinfectant.

Solutions of chloride of lime should be kept tightly corked, and should not be used after they are a week old.—*Am. Jour. of the Med. Sci.*, 1889.

## ARSENIC AND BICHLORIDE OF MERCURY IN THE TREATMENT OF ANÆMIA.

Although it is perfectly true that we have almost no knowledge of the manner in which alteratives act in instances of diseases where, through morbid functional activity, enlarged glands of growth appear, it is evident that they must act upon the trophic nerves or directly upon the nourishment of the affected parts. If they are used in large quantities they act as depressants to the normal nutrition of the body, producing primarily a decrease in the vitality of morbid growths, so that they melt down and disappear, and they may finally so reduce the condition of the healthy tissues as to cause sloughs and ulcerations. Whether these changes are due to the over-stimulation of nutrition—that is, to an excessive trophic change—or whether they depend upon actual lowering of the tone of the parts, we know not. One thing we do know, however, and that is, that small doses of most of the so-called alterative drugs act as very distinct stimulants to the development of normal structures, and in no instance do we find this more typically represented than the effect which they exert on the blood. Quite a number of years ago Keyes, of New York, emphasized the value of minute doses of mercury bichloride in syphilitic and other anæmias, and abundant clinical observation has certainly confirmed his views. The dose of bichloride of mercury in anæmia should be about one-fortieth of a grain. Not only will minute doses of the bichloride of mercury act in this way, but small amounts of calomel or mercury itself will have such an effect.

Inunctions of very small amounts of mercurial ointment, once a day, or every other day, in adults and children, will increase the fulness and redness of the cheeks and lips, and the number of the corpuscles; the piece of ointment used being no larger than the half of a very small pea. This treatment will be found of service in cases not dependent upon specific taint or scrofula. The marked increase in the nutrition of children of a syphilitic taint, who are suffering from marasmus, under the use of gray powder and inunctions, gives further evidence of this fact.

Arsenic also is of value in anæmic conditions, and may be employed in comparatively larger doses than mercury; but, nevertheless, smaller amounts than are usually given in chorea and similar states. Osler has shown the value of the drug in anæmia, and so has Barton, of University College, in England. Any one of the preparations may be employed, but not more than one-sixtieth of a grain of arsenious acid should be taken in a day, although more has been used with no less benefit to the patient. Most of the drug under these circumstances is