

E. R. Squibb, in a paper recently read before the Kings County Medical Association, refers especially to this defect. He says that moisture is necessary to enable contagious matter to propagate contagion, and *equally necessary for any reaction with agents which have the power to so change their molecular structure as to destroy their capacity for contagion.* He shows that sulphur dioxide, resulting from burning sulphur in the air, is not a disinfectant, but requires the presence of moisture: and that in proportion to the amount of moisture, up to what would be a very large dilution, the more there is present the more perfect are the conditions for thorough disinfection, and the less moisture there is present the more imperfect the disinfection.

Dr. Sternberg's experiments, made in 1880 and 1881, demonstrated that to destroy the power of *liquid* vaccine five grammes of sulphur burned in a cubic metre of air were sufficient, while to destroy *dry* vaccine sixteen grammes per cubic metre were required.

That there is a growing tendency to abandon the fumigation by sulphur of premises infected by contagious diseases, or at least not to depend upon it alone to the exclusion of other means of disinfection, cannot be denied. Writing on this point, Dr. Squibb says that he has reached the conclusion that burning sulphur for disinfection should by no means be abandoned, but should be more thoroughly and more carefully applied. He says that a shallow pan of water upon a kerosene stove well started in advance of lighting the sulphur, and the floor, ceiling, and walls well sprinkled with water by means of an ordinary dust-brush, is perhaps as good a practice as any.

Dr. Sternberg says that, admitting that in the absence of spores, micro-organisms suspended in the atmosphere or attached to the surface of objects may be destroyed by sulphur dioxide, when generated in a sufficient quantity in a well-closed apartment and in the presence of moisture, the question remains whether the same object may not be as well accomplished by thorough ventilation, and by washing all surfaces—walls, ceilings, floors, furniture, etc.—with a 1:1000 solution of mercuric chloride, which we know to be promptly destructive of germs of all kinds. —*Brooklyn Medical Journal.*

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Contributions of various descriptions are invited. We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere current medical news of general interest.

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THE TORONTO TRAINING SCHOOL FOR NURSES.

The success which has attended the Training School for Nurses in the Toronto General Hospital has been as remarkable as it has been gratifying to those who have watched its progress. The course of instruction in the different varieties of nursing is thorough and complete. The nurses before graduating are compelled to pass two rigid examinations: one at the end of the first year, and the other at the completion of the second year. At the last examination, written and oral, conducted by Drs. Cameron, Grasett and Wright, the eight successful candidates obtained an average percentage of 79, the individual percentages ranging from 70 to 85. The success of the School is chiefly due to the untiring efforts of the capable superintendent, Miss Snively, the matron of the Hospital, whose report at the recent "Convocation" held in the Hospital theatre, presented some interesting facts. From it we learn that the total number of graduates is now 86: and of these 4 are foreign missionaries, and 15 are in charge of hospitals in various parts of Canada and the United States. Two of this year's graduates are now en route for the inland China mission.

THE STANDARD OF MATRICULATION IN MEDICINE.

Many are the discussions which take place on the subject of elevating the standard of matriculation in medicine. Many say it is much too low, and at the same time have no intelligent idea of what it really is. Some, who have a