

ALCOHOL AS AN ANTIDOTE FOR CARBOLIC ACID.

Occasional reports of carbolic acid poisoning, which appeared in recent issues of the current medical press, remind us of the success achieved by Phelps in antidoting carbolic acid by the use of alcohol. He states that the hands may be washed with impunity in ninety-five per cent. carbolic acid, and that no escharotic effect will result if they be immediately dipped in alcohol. He has employed injections of pure carbolic acid in suppurating cavities, and has then washed them out with alcohol. The procedure has not been accompanied by carbolic acid intoxication. The method has been found to be very efficient in immediately sterilizing suppurating cavities, and many cases have been followed by a rapid absorption of the walls of the abscess and an obliteration of its cavity. The importance of the discovery in relation to accidents with carbolic acid cannot be over-estimated. The frequency of accidental poisoning with this drug have greatly increased of late years, and the occasional accidental spillings of the contents of a bottle of strong carbolic acid over some portion of the body is by no means infrequent. The application of alcohol to these cases is said to furnish a perfect antidote. Carbolic acid, when swallowed, if followed at once by alcohol is said to be immediately antidoted.—*Med. Review.*

THE PILLOW CASE METHOD OF ADMINISTERING UNGUENTUM HYDRARGYRI.

Sufficient attention has not been called to Professor Velander's method of administering unguentum hydrargyri in the treatment of syphilis. In this country the administration of mercury by the skin is neglected, the oral method being employed almost to the exclusion of others. While the oral method is of value in those with a vigorous digestion, and particularly in the early stages of disorder, yet it soon loses its effect, and it is necessary to administer the mercury by inunction, or by subcutaneous injection. Inunctions are applied with difficulty, especially in the lower class of patients and those whose personal habits are uncleanly. The simplicity of Velander's method commends itself for use in the out-patient departments of our large dispensaries. It is based on the theory that the absorption of mercury is largely by the lungs, even when it is rubbed into the skin. The ointment is applied to the inner surface of a small bag, about