fectant power, provided full allowance be made for the protective influence of media. Under certain conditions the germs of septic microzymes are less easily killed than any of the contagia hitherto subjected to investigation. We may be able dimly to perceive why particles surrounded by an envelope of dried albuminous matter, or scattered through a semi-solid mass, should be protected against the operation of heat or chlorine; but why they should resist heat better in an alkaline than a neutral liquid, why turnip infusion should differ in protective power from beef tea, and this again from an infusion of melon, or a solution containing peptones,—these are questions to which no answer can at present be suggested. The problem of the immediate future as regards disinfection must consist less in the search for new disinfectants than for improved methods of employing those we already have. Drinking-water and milk are media widely different in the degree of their protective power. He would not hesitate to drink contaminated water which had been well boiled, but to raise milk to the same temperature, would not be a sufficient safeguard. That minute particles are capable of being conveyed to a considerable distance through the air against the influence of gravity has been conclusively established by the ingenious experiments of Professor Frankland. The "intrinsic" resistance of contagia to destructive agencies is insignificant in comparison with that conferred upon them by their media, and their tendency to ellude our efforts by becoming scattered. The success of our operations in any given case must depend on our knowledge (1) of the media to which the infective particles are contained; (2) of the laws that govern their dissemination and propagation. We have two agents that are at once cheap and effectual—heat and sulphurous acid.

On the Practical Aspects of Disinfection. — Dr. Seaton next read a paper on this subject. He said:—Heat is the agent most to be relied on for the destruction of specific poisons. Sulphurous acid, chlorine, carbolic acid, and permanganate of potash are each endowed with true disinfecting properties when used in definite proportions. Aërial disinfection as commonly practised in the sick-room is useless or positively objectionable, owing to the false sense of security it is calculated to produce. Boiling is the safest way of dealing with linen which has become infected, and which requires disinfection before being sent to the wash. When boiling is impracticable, a solution of carbolic acid in the proportion of one to forty would appear the most efficacious. For the bowel and other discharges or secretions the choice would seem practically to rest between carbolic acid and permanganate. As regards these two the advantages and disadvantages appear to be equally balanced. Dilute freely the discharges, which in typhoid or cholera are already semi-fluid, so as to obtain a fluid more easily acted on. If carbolic acid be prescribed, let the vessel be charged with two ounces of Calvert's No. 4. After use add a quart of water and one ounce of the acid. The disinfection of bedding, carpets,