

or a few live coals of fire placed in the same, will facilitate the ignition of the sulphur. A portion of the water in the outer vessel will be vaporised by the heat from the burning sulphur and accelerate the germicidal action of the fumes, and the spread of fire from the kettle to articles in the room rendered practically impossible. Owing to the fact that the germicidal action of sulphur fumes is slow, and that this action is impeded more or less by leakage through porous surfaces, cracks, and other openings, in large rooms it is best to distribute the sulphur in two or more kettles, so as to fill every part of the room with the fumes in equal volume and in the least possible time. Fabrics that would be bleached or damaged by the sulphur fumes should be removed from the room previous to the fumigation, after being liberally sprinkled with a 40 per cent. solution of formaldehyde and rolled into a tight bundle. A coating of vaseline upon metallic surfaces that could not be washed with a disinfectant and previously removed from the room, will prevent discoloration. The room should remain closed from six to eight hours, then opened and ventilated freely. Remove contents in the outer air.

PREPARATION OF A ROOM TO BE DISINFECTED.

One or more of the windows should be left unlocked, so as to open from the outside, to air the room after fumigation is over. All registers, fireplaces, cracks, or openings of any kind, which would permit the fumes to escape from the room to be disinfected, should be closed up and tightly sealed. Paper pasted over cracks, door, and window-sills, would answer to prevent the escape of fumes.

PREPARATION OF THE CONTENTS OF A ROOM.

In the disinfection of a room, it is necessary not only that the disinfectant should come in contact with the walls, the ceiling, and the furniture, but it should be made to penetrate every crack, the upholstery, the mattress, bedding, books, the contents of bureau drawers, and trunks, etc. For, unless these be thoroughly disinfected also, and the germs killed, the disease may spread, causing further sickness and death. All articles which cannot be boiled or immersed in a disinfecting solution, should be spread out and well exposed to the action of the disinfecting fumes. Stuffed bed covers that cannot be boiled, mattresses, silks, heavy woollen clothing, furs, should be spread out, and contents of bureau drawers and trunks should be taken out and unfolded, so as to expose as much surface as possible to the action of the disinfectant. The pockets of garments should be turned inside out, books should be rested on their open front edges; carpets should

be fumigated on the floor, but may afterwards be removed to be sunned and aired. Draperies should be left hanging until disinfection is complete.

DISINFECTION OF CLOTHING, BED LINEN, DISCHARGES, HANDS, HAIR, ETC.

Disinfection by Bichloride of Mercury.

Bichloride of Mercury, being a poison, should be used with great caution. The necessary strength to be used is 1-500 and 1-1000, this being, approximately, two drams to one gallon of water, and one dram to one gallon, respectively.

Soiled clothing, bed linen, flannels, blankets, cotton handkerchiefs, napkins, etc., should be immersed in a 1-1000 or 1-500 solution by placing in a wooden pail or tub, and covering with the solution. Allow articles to remain immersed for from one to two hours, then remove and boil and wash in the ordinary way.

Cups, glasses, spoons, knives and forks, and in fact all dishes used about an infected person, should be subjected to this fluid before being washed.

After exposure to any contagious disease, the person exposed should take an antiseptic bath, sponging the entire surface of the body with a 1-1000 solution of bichloride of mercury, including hair, and beard, if any.

After disinfection of a room and contents, it is well to go over the woodwork with a 1-500 solution of bichloride of mercury, washing out all cracks, openings, and crevices.

The use of mercury (being one of our strongest mineral poisons) as a disinfectant should be with the utmost caution, and directed by the attending physician or health officer.

Disinfection by Carbolic Acid.

Carbolic acid is useful as a disinfectant only in a limited degree, and for specific purposes.

For use in the sick room, as a wash for disinfecting hands, or surface of body, a from 3 to 5 per cent. solution (4 ounces or 6½ ounces of carbolic acid to one gallon of water) should be used. This solution should be used by nurses and others for washing the hands after handling the infected patient. Cuspidors, slop bowls, and other receptacles for receiving discharges, should contain a liberal supply of this solution. Discharges from the bowels should be covered with this solution, the vessel cover put on and allowed to remain for an hour before disposing of the same. Bedding, soiled linen, and other soiled articles of clothing that have come in contact with the patient, should be placed in a tub or pail containing this solution, and allowed to remain immersed for two or more hours before going into the wash.

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