was found to be a hydroxy-carbonate containing three molecules of carbonate and one of hydroxide ($3\text{PbCO}_3 \cdot \text{PbO} \cdot \text{H}_2$). The first reaction with aerated water appears to be oxidation and formation of hydroxide, which then is precipitated by carbon dioxide as basic carbonate.

Disinfection by Dry Heat.—SCHUMBURG (*Zeitschrift für Hygiene und Infektionskrankheiten*, xli. p. 167) shows that, although dry hot air is so uncertain in its action as to be unsuitable for practical disinfection, air at 100°C . will kill the most resistant non-sporing bacteria in and on clothing and other objects within an hour, if it contains from 55 to 65 per cent. relative humidity. This degree of moisture can be attained by having a vessel of water in the space where the objects are treated. Since disinfection of clothing and other objects containing anthrax and tetanus spores is very seldom needed, and since, on the other hand, the bacteria most commonly the object of disinfection (those of typhoid fever, cholera, plague, influenza, diphtheria, tuberculosis, and, probably, measles and scarlet fever, and the pus cocci) form no spores, disinfection with moist hot air will suffice in almost all cases. This method has this advantage over disinfection by steam: that articles of leather (gloves, books, riding breeches, etc.) may be exposed from six to eight hours without injury.

The Neutral-red Method in the Differentiation of *B. Coli* and *B. Typhosus*.—A systematic test of a number of races of coli and typhoid organisms with neutral-red has been made by M. P. FITZGERALD and GEORGE DREYER (*Biochemisches Centrallatt*, March 1, 1903, p. 238), who used peptone bouillon and agar containing 0.5 or 1.0 per cent. aqueous solution of neutral-red and varying amounts of acid, alkali, and glucose. They found but one qualitative difference between *B. coli* and *B. typhosus*, and hence, one cannot be satisfied with this one test alone. Glucose-free bouillon is preferable to agar. Large amounts of acid interfere with the reaction, and one must avoid the presence of 0.5 per cent. or more of glucose. The best medium appeared to be 3 per cent. lactose bouillon with the above-mentioned amount of neutral-red. In four to six days, *B. typhosus* gives a yellow color, while *B. coli* gives a red. The original color of the liquid has no influence on the end result. When the typical color once appears it persists. The result is less dependent upon the amount of free acid or alkali than with other methods. Different samples of neutral-red appeared to be reducible in different degrees.

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