

from a central point, and presented an appearance somewhat similar, but not so well marked, as that described by Virchow as distinguishing this form of sarcoma from melanotic cancer. — (Geschwülte, vol. 2, p. 286.)

There was no marked difference in the general shape and arrangement of the cells in the unpigmented deposits. A few pigment cells were found here, sometimes single and sometimes in clusters. The fatty degeneration of the cells was everywhere apparent. That portion of the liver which was free from metastatic deposit had undergone extensive fatty metamorphosis.

The presence of melanotic and white deposits in an organ following primary melanotic disease, is not to be considered very remarkable when we know that unpigmented as well as pigmented cells occur in the original growth.

It was not possible to conclude, with any degree of certainty, from what anatomical structure of the liver the development of the new growth took place. The liver cells did not appear to take any active part in the process. Rindfleisch\* considers that the development of the cells takes place in the capillaries, and, moreover, that the cells of the walls of the vessels are the producers of the cancer cells. The capillaries are filled with the growing cells, which project into the liver veins, causing thrombosis. This seems to have occurred in the present case, though whether there was an actual invasion of the larger vessels by cancer cells, must be considered doubtful. It was not possible to decide whether the new cells grew in the capillary vessels or the lymph spaces, though the fact that in the unaltered capillaries proliferating cells were found, would speak for the supposition that the vessels were the seat of the growth. The walls of the capillaries in the neighborhood were unaltered; when the cells began to form in masses, the structure of the wall could no longer be made out.

#### A NEW AND PRACTICAL METHOD OF DISINFECTION.

By EDWARD H. HOSKIN, Grad. R.C.S.L., L.S.A.,  
M.P.S.I., Boston.

I WISH, through the columns of your JOURNAL, to call the attention of the profession to a new and simple apparatus designed by myself, the object of which is to vaporize certain chemical substances, and thus thoroughly to disinfect the air, walls, ceiling,

and, in short, the entire contents of any apartment, however large.

The instrument by the aid of which this is to be accomplished may be briefly described as consisting of a bottle, wick, and—attached to the free end of the wick—a bulb of spongy platinum. Into the bottle should be poured an alcoholic solution of the substance which it is desired to vaporize (for instance, carbolic acid); the wick is then to be lighted, and the flame extinguished as soon as the ball becomes red hot, which requires but two or three minutes. The ball is now fed continuously by the wick, and will continue red hot as long as any fluid remains in the bottle, and, in this condition, it will readily vaporize the substance in solution, minute particles of which are thus scattered throughout the atmosphere.

The following may be enumerated as a few of the cases in which it is thought this instrument will be found useful.

Firstly. In zymotic diseases, for disinfecting the persons of patients as well as those of the nurses and other attendants, also the furniture, walls, ceiling and air, this method offers many advantages over any other hitherto suggested. In scarlatina, smallpox, &c., there are strong grounds for the belief that the poisonous germs of the malady, emanating from the body of the patient and exhaled with every breath, fill the air of the sick chamber, adhering to all objects within the room, and that each of these germs, unless in some way neutralized or destroyed, may become the focus of future infection. It is true that these germs are so minute that their presence has not yet been detected with certainty, even with the aid of the microscope, still we have very strong circumstantial evidence of their existence. Furthermore, experiments have demonstrated that if liquids or solids containing these germs are brought in contact with certain chemical substances, such as carbolic acid, sulphurous acid, &c., even in the smallest appreciable quantity, they are, by some process not yet satisfactorily explained, rendered completely innocuous. In scarlatina, in particular, the results of this theory have been repeatedly shown, and the inevitable deductions are such as must carry with them great weight, so that, at present, when one member of a family is attacked with this contagious malady, so great is the confidence felt in these prophylactic measures by those who have given them a trial, that it is no longer considered necessary to remove those of the family who have not previously contracted the disease. But while the body of the patient may be

\* Rindfleisch Lehrbuch der Pathologischen Gewebe-  
1, 2d edition.

disinfected by simple outward applications, it has long been felt that some ready process was needed for attacking more effectually those germs which float in the air or adhere to the walls and ceiling. For this purpose this little instrument will be found particularly efficient.

2dly. In the recent recommendations of the Commissioners on the contagious diseases among cattle of this State, the importance of thoroughly disinfecting barns and sheds is urged in order to arrest a prevailing epizootic, but it will be observed that no method is suggested for effectually carrying out such a process. I am confident that the result here desired could be most readily obtained by placing in these buildings, for twenty-four hours, two or three of the instruments here described. Other objects to which this apparatus may be applied will continually suggest themselves; as for instance, for neutralizing the offensive odor of dissecting rooms, surgical wards, for purifying the holds of emigrant ships, for disinfecting cars and carriages in which persons suffering from contagious maladies have been conveyed, or even horse or steam railroad cars to which any suspicion of such conveyance may be attached, or which need to be purified from other causes. By introducing into the bottle a solution of iodine, cannabis indica, or the like, this instrument may be substituted for the various atomizers now in use, for administering these various drugs by inhalation.

I have ventured to give the name "Eudi-pile" to this instrument, and although its construction was suggested by the old and well-known scientific toy employed in Eudiometry, it differs from the latter in several essential particulars.

Of course, the bottles to contain the disinfecting liquid may be made of different capacities, to correspond with the size of the apartment to be disinfected.

It has been estimated that a bottle holding two ounces will throw out a constant stream of vapor for about sixteen hours, at an expense not exceeding twenty cents.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL LEGISLATION ON THE SALE OF POISONS.

By C. W. STEVENS, A.B., M.D., Charlestown.

In view of the great number of cases of poisoning occurring every year, I was recently led to examine the General Statutes of Massachusetts, and, to my surprise, found the following statute:—

"CHAP. 166. SECT. 7. If an apothecary or other persons sells any arsenic, strychnine, corrosive sublimate or prussic acid, without the written prescription of a physician, he shall keep a record of the date of such sale, the article, the amount thereof sold, and the person or persons to whom delivered; and for each neglect he shall forfeit a sum not exceeding fifty dollars. Whoever purchases deadly poisons as aforesaid, and gives a false or fictitious name to the apothecary or other person, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars."

That is all there is in regard to the sale of poisons—no forbidding of the sale of poisons, no requirement of a special label. The only mention of the subject is in regard to four poisons, and the only condition of sale is that the same be recorded.

If we now turn to the statutes of New York, we find there is one step farther taken in the right direction. The Statutes forbid the sale of poisons, except from a prescription, unless the package contain, 1st, the name of the apothecary; 2d, his residence; 3d, the word poison; and, 4th, that the sale be registered.

An act to regulate the sale of poisons (1860) prescribes, 1st, that "No person shall sell or give any poison or poisonous substance without recording in a book to be kept for that purpose the name of the person receiving said poison, his or her residence, excepting upon the written order or prescription of some regularly authorized practising physician, whose name shall be attached to such order."

2d. "It is farther enacted that no person shall sell, give or dispose of any poison or poisonous substance, except upon the order or prescription of a regularly authorized practising physician, without attaching to the vial, box or parcel containing such poisonous substance, a label with the name and residence of such person and the word poison, all printed upon it with red ink, together with the name of such person written or printed thereon in plain and legible characters."

"Any person infringing any of the provisions of said act shall, upon conviction, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be punished by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars."

On examining the pharmacy act of England, there is still another step taken. The purchaser must be known to the apothecary, and the label of the package must contain, 1st, the name of the apothecary; 2d, his residence; 3d, the word poison; and, 4th, the name of the article. The articles