

The correspondence between the length of time the antiseptics will maintain a sterile field and the "Antiseptic Coefficient" may or may not be fortuitous. The shorter action of the organic mercurials may be due to more rapid combination with tissue cells constituents. On the other hand this does not explain the long maintained action of metaphen against staphylococci. It may be that some substance formed when metaphen comes in contact with skin constituents remains toxic to staphylococci but non-toxic to streptococci. Certainly there seems to be something much more selective in the action of the organic mercurial antiseptics than with the iodine products.

CONCLUSIONS.

It seems that no one antiseptic is outstanding in all respects. Where maintenance of a sterile area after one application of an antiseptic is the most important factor, as in preoperative preparation of surgical fields, tincture of iodine is still the best of the group studied here. Where irritation is to be avoided, and either immediate sterilization is all that is desired, or a moist pack or repeated application can be used, the organic mercurials seem preferable. As a general antiseptic which will preserve a sterile field for some time, which produces some irritation but does not delay healing, the glycerine solution of Igol appears most valuable. It seems, however, that it will still be necessary for a physician to use intelligence and not assume that any one product known as an antiseptic is all he need prescribe in every case.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The author wishes to acknowledge the constant guidance of Professor C. H. Thienes of the Department of Pharmacology, University of Southern California, during the progress of the experiments.

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RED CROSS.

"We grow, as we share." By this is meant not only as "we share" through our actual help to unfortunate neighbors, but also as "we share" through giving our memberships to keep the Red Cross prepared and fully armed to give this help. We must recognize the necessity for maintaining the Red Cross in strong financial position to meet any great disaster relief calls. We do not know now and cannot foresee what tremendous tasks may await us in this forthcoming year. We do know that the world has not faced such an unsettled future in two decades.

The Fiftieth International Congress for the Unity of Science will be held at Harvard University, September 5th to 10th, 1939. The theme of the congress is "The Logic of Science;" attention will be given to general problems connected with the unification of science, and there will be a number of special sessions and symposia. The congress is sponsored by the International Committee of the Congresses for the Unity of Science, by the International Institute for the Unity of Science, and in America, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Philosophy of Science Association, the Association for Symbolic Logic and the American Philosophical Association. A series of twenty monographs, entitled "Foundations of the Unity of Science" is now being issued by the University of Chicago Press.