DISINFECTION IN MEXICO.

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The agents employed in disinfection at the present time in Mexico are, as in other places, physical forces and chemicals. For disinfection of bedding, clothes, hangings, etc., not silk or leather, steam at 115° C. and fifteen minutes' exposure in closed apparatus is much used.

A 1-2 in 1000 solution of bichlorid of mercury is used as a spray, in rooms, and for a wash for human beings, and for clothing, etc. Of course all metallic articles which would be injured must be covered by some protecting coating as asphalt varnish. This is also used for closets, drains, etc., and for small vessels excepting those to contain fruits and foods.

Lime solution 1-4 is also used for walls. The fumes of burning sulfur are used for room disinfection, 30 grams to one cubic meter. Precautions are taken in the use of sulfur to have the room as close as possible, and the air well moistened. The action should continue for from 12 to 24 hours before airing the room. Formaldehyde is used to a certain extent, mainly where other agents mentioned would damage the things to be disinfected.

Prussic acid is beginning to be employed, both as an insecticide and disinfectant according to methods described by Dr. Fernando Lopez. He uses from 1 to 20 grams of potassium cyanide per cubic meter of space to be disinfected, liberating the acid by using dilute sulfuric acid.