nally and Dioscorides (*Med. Mater., lib. V, cap. 23*) acknowledges sea water was given internally as a purge by itself. He recommended: Equal parts of Honey, Sea and Rain Water: also Wine made with sea water to purge the body, also to relieve those who spit purulent matter, and those that are costive. * * * In *de Parabilibus,* he affirms that sea water drank with Oxymell will break internal abscesses.—p. 150.

Half a pint of Sea Water drank at night going to Bed repeated in the Morning, is generally enough for Adults—p. 153.

For the glands of King's evil—operate and use Sea Water both internally and externally (as embrocations). [Many case reports given]—p. 156.

From what has been said it will appear that this method of cure is no invention of the Moderns, but was known to the Father of Medicine while it was in its infancy—p. 171.

It would appear, therefore, that the idea of using sea water or sea salts for medicinal and health purposes was a custom well established in former times, but one which a careful examination of medical and health literature of the present day shows has been quite discarded (in favor of "purified products"). Instead of the "old fashioned salt" derived by evaporation of sea water and retaining a trace or more of the thirty-odd elements said to be present in sea water, entirely new and also far cheaper source-methods of salt supply (from mines and brines of inland sources) is now the plan, and as a result we have a purified article, *sodium chloride.* Thus, as I have suggested in my previous articles, we have possibly created a condition of iodine and other elemental starvation purely by our commercial procedures. Should we not pursue a "back to nature" plan in this matter, as is advocated in connection with some of our vitamin-free food articles? Necessarily more scientific investigation is still essential to substantiate this, but observational evidence on all sides is strongly in support of it.

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THE CURE AND PREVENTION OF EAR CANKER IN RABBITS

ONE of the many serious chronic diseases of rabbits that may interfere with the use of this animal in laboratory work is "ear canker." This disease may seriously handicap or cripple research, especially experiments requiring months or years of observation on the same animals.

Ear canker is caused by an animal parasite (*Psorocoptes cuniculi*) which closely resembles the mite (*Sarcoptes cuniculi*) causing scabies. Curiously, it attacks only the concha of the ear. The earliest manifestations of infection are indicated by hyperemia and the formation of reddish brown crusts near the bottom of the concha. The hyperemia and crust formation extend and after months may involve nearly all the inner surface of the ear. The most serious complication of the disease is pyogenic infection of the middle ear which may extend to the internal ear and meninges. The parasite spreads more rapidly during the warm months. The disease is widespread, and few, if any, laboratories escape its occasional introduction.

The usual methods prescribed for treatment involve isolation and are elaborate and costly. For many years we have been treating the infection in important animals by the time-honored plan of removing the crusts and swabbing the concha with glycerine containing 2 per cent. carbolic acid. This method, as with many others of the same type, is tedious and time consuming. Last June (1923) when the laboratory was heavily stocked an extensive outbreak occurred, both in the old and the young stock. In casting about for some quick means of attack, we decided to try kerosene on account of its powerful insecticidal action. This was sprayed into the ear with a small De Vilbiss atomizer. Each ear received the amount of kerosene spray discharged from three or four compressions of the bulb or sufficient to moisten only the inner surface of the ear. The ears were sprayed twice, with an interval of six days. At the end of two weeks all the rabbits were cured of the infection and no case has since developed in our rabbit colony, averaging about 200 animals. It is doubtful whether the second spraying was necessary.

We have been prompted to call the attention of other laboratory workers to this well-known infection for the following reasons: (1) This experience was one of the most striking therapeutic effects in mammals we have ever witnessed; (2) Kerosene spray affords a specific, cheap, simple, rapid and certain means, both of curing and preventing the disease.

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THE MEANING OF CONSERVATION

IN an article entitled "Two kinds of conservation," published in *The Scientific Monthly* for March, 1924, Dr. E. E. Slosson makes a statement which, in my opinion, is likely to help to perpetuate an old misconception of the meaning of conservation as applied to natural resources—a misconception which Dr. Slosson probably does not share. The likelihood is increased by the fact that the statement is strikingly clear and forceful—as is usual with what Dr. Slosson says—and is almost but not quite correct.

Dr. Slosson says, "The conservation of oil means not using it, for all the oil that is used is forever lost.