

MEDICATED -BATHS.

The great popularity of mineral springs, together with the fact that in the minds of most people there exists an idea that mineral water is more healthful for the sick than that which is pure, has led to the preparation of artificially medicated baths in many cities.

In preparing these, the physician strives to imitate nature in some instances by producing mineralized, saline, alkaline, and acid baths, while others have sought to improve the mineral-bath by adding thereto oleaginous, spirituous, and gaseous compounds and fumegations, apparently thinking that if they could succeed in producing a bath that should at once contain some of the supposed infernal stenches of pandemonium, as well as some of the impurities of this earth, that they had indeed succeeded in producing an "antidote" to disease in all its multitudinous forms. **Absurd as is the idea of such baths being capable of restoring health to the sick,** nevertheless hundreds of them have been prepared, and what will doubtless strike the reader as still more absurd, to save expense, the same water in most cases was used over and over again in treating different patients suffering with various diseases. This has been

done by educated men, who professed to be the conservators of the health of the people. It is unnecessary to say anything further against the use of these baths, as all that has been said concerning the **impropriety of using the water of mineral springs applies with equal force to the medicated baths.**

The following are a few of the many medicated baths that are in use at the present time, both in this country and in Europe: —

The Acid-Bath is made by adding from eight ounces to two pounds of muriatic acid to sixty-six gallons of water.

The Alkaline-Bath, by adding from eight to sixteen ounces of pearlash to sixty-six gallons of water.

The Borax-Bath, by adding four ounces of borax and three fluid ounces of glycerine to thirty gallons of hot water.

The Conium and Starch-Bath, by adding one ounce of extract of conium and one pound of pulverized starch to thirty gallons of hot water.

The Creosote-Bath, by adding three fluid drachms of creosote and four fluid ounces of glycerine to thirty gallons of hot water.

The Potassium-Sulphuret-Bath, by adding four ounces of potassium sulphuret to sixty gallons of water.

The Nitro-Hydrochloric-Acid-Bath, by adding twelve ounces of nitric acid and one ounce of hydrochloric acid to thirty gallons of hot water.

The Gelatinous-Bath, by adding glue to the water.

The Sulphur-Bath, by adding two ounces of diluted sulphuric acid and eight ounces of sulphuret of potassium to thirty gallons of water.

The Tan-Bath, by boiling two or three hand-fuls of **ground oak bark** in two or three quarts of water, and adding the liquid to the bath.

The Arsenical-Bath, by adding a preparation of arsenious acid, nitrate of soda, **carbonate of soda**, (*baking soda*) sulphate of soda, and salt, with sufficient water for a bath. (*See document from Sister White regarding baking soda and powder*)

All of the preceding medicated baths are in constant use in many large cities, yet they are all not only useless so far as the medicating of them is concerned, but **they are positively injurious to the human system, and should never be used.**