

I might stop here, but I am inclined to think that some one will say that the term "infective dust" is rather vague. A pathologist or bacteriologist would demand something more definite. He will likely call our attention to the little bits of yellowish or greenish matter which we so frequently spit up and which is coughed up in large quantities by persons severely afflicted with inflammation of the respiratory tract. He will tell us that this matter is made up mainly of white cells from the blood which have been killed off in the struggle with this so-called infective matter, and he will mention a lot of big names that are Greek to 999 in every 1,000 persons.

Now, I have purposely refrained from making use of the term microbe. A wise sanitarian has said that as long as you speak of infective matter you come in for very little criticism, but the moment you mention microbes the newspapers jump on you and ridicule the idea that dust is dangerous or that it is dangerous to spit whenever and wherever we choose. The newspapers are great factors in disseminating useful knowledge, and if they will not speak ill of infected dust but will antagonize any statements based on microbes, it seems to me that we would best stop and let the bacteriologist continue the discussion.

A METHOD OF DETERMINING THE ABSOLUTE DILATION OF MERCURY.

BY ARTHUR L. FOLEY.

(By title.)

