

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

- **Aldehydes (cross linking agents)-** act by creating covalent chemical bonds between proteins of tissues- anchor the insoluble compound to cytoskeleton-protect secondary as well as tertiary structure of protein- provide mechanical strength/ additional rigidity to tissue structure.
- **Oxidizing agents-** joins with various side chains of protein molecules & other biomolecules- allow formation of cross link- stabilizes tissue structure
- **Protein denaturing agents:** reduce the solubility of protein without combining with it & disrupts the hydrophobic bonds which is needed for its tertiary structure to form.
- **Mercurials (B5 fixatives):** it increases the staining brightness & give good nuclear detail. Good for reticulo-endothelial tissue & haemo-poetic tissue.
- **Picrates:** binds with histone & basic proteins to form crystalline picrates with amino acid & precipitates protein.