

from scarlet fever is greater the nearer the patient is to one or two years of age. The risk diminishes beyond the fifth year of life. Children under one are not, as a rule, susceptible to the disease.

While the statistics furnished by Drs. Tatham and Line do not settle the matter, they protest against the practice of some physicians who, when scarlet fever or other contagious disease appears in a house, recommend that no special precautions be taken as to the younger children. They say that, "as one attack of a contagious disease probably gives to the recipient, for many years at least, immunity from that disease, and that, as children are destined to have the so-called children's diseases some time or other, the sooner the better." On the contrary, at the present time, when the majority of young children are artificially fed, and young mothers are mainly of the nervous type, the struggle that is necessary for even a fair physical development is enough to contend with, without the little ones being subjected to the strains which most contagious diseases inflict.

Whatever may have been the rule in times gone by, in the present age immunity from a second attack of contagious disease is not by any means always to be expected; at least this is our experience. If we consider also the debility, prostration, and injury induced by contagious diseases, especially among feeble children, and the increased risk of death, the position of the physicians before referred to does not seem a sound one.

Enemata of Water in the Treatment of Diarrhœa and Dysentery.

Raymond Tripier (*Journal des Sci. Med. de Lille*, April, 1887), reports the use of hot water enemata with an infant twenty-one months old, whose dysenteric movements were every fifteen or twenty minutes. After the first injection there was no movement for two hours, and in a short time the child was convalescent. The temperature of the water should be 45-48° C., and from 300 to 500 centimetres in quantity. If enemata alone do not answer, decoction of ipecac is given internally.

Injections of ice-water are said to be used at the Birmingham General Hospital with marked success in severe forms of diarrhœa in children, two or three fluid ounces being injected each time. The immediate effect, even when there are symptoms of collapse, is quiet sleep, and diarrhœa is in general

easily controlled by a few injections. Medicine by the mouth is also given. Dysentery is not readily controlled by medication, especially with patients living in overcrowded houses, and enemata of hot water seem reasonable.

Enemata of cold water (not iced) have been of great service in the non-inflammatory forms of diarrhœa, especially when nervous and muscular tone are much depressed. An easily worked bulb-syringe is best adapted for these enemata, which should be given either after each movement (if the movements are frequent), or every two hours, until there are but three or four movements per day. An opiate (preferably the deodorized tincture) may be given in the enema, if there is great restlessness or much tendency to strain. Internal medication, if possible, had better be dispensed with. Frequently one injection of cold water, together with regulation of the diet, will cure a comparatively mild case of diarrhœa.

Treatment of Summer Diarrhœa by Antiseptics.

Dr. Win. F. Waugh (*Philadelphia Medical Times*, August, 1887), states that he has treated thirty cases of summer diarrhœa with the sulpho-carbolate of zinc without one death. The cases included inflammatory entero-colitis and true cholera infantum, as well as milder forms. The salt was given in doses of one-sixteenth of a grain every two hours, with one to five grains of bismuth; and, if well borne, the dose was increased to one-fourth of a grain for a child in its second summer. The Doctor claims that the zinc salt is superior to naphthalin and salicylic acid, in that it is more palatable and less irritating to the stomach. Its effect is to stop vomiting and to render stools less offensive, but it sometimes makes them more copious. When the last effect occurs, he substitutes an enema of flaxseed tea containing five grains of the zinc salt and a half drachm of bismuth. Fever was treated by antipyrin in doses of one or two grains.

Within the last few years the antiseptic treatment of summer diarrhœa has made an advance, a prevailing opinion being that micro-organisms in food and air have much to do with the causation of the affection. Antiseptics, allaying nervous irritability by pure air and quiet surroundings and minute doses of opiates or bromides, relieving irritation by regulation of diet, small doses of carbolic acid, opiates, ipecac, cocaine or calomel, and by enemata