

isolated and its properties examined by several chemists, who have corroborated Dr. Vaughan's statements. It is apparently one of the diazo-benzol salts. In small doses it induces severe vomiting and purging; the first stools are faecal, but the subsequent ones are serous, like rice-water in appearance, and alkaline. With the continued administration of small doses from day to day the vomiting and diarrhoea continue, leading to rapid emaciation and death. The post-mortem appearances are very similar to those found after death from cholera infantum, the mucous membrane of stomach and small intestine being blanched and somewhat softened. The conditions favoring the production of tyrotoxin in milk are a comparatively warm temperature, 98° to 100° , with the exclusion or only limited supply of air, and any conditions of uncleanness or impurity in the milk. Simple souring of the milk is produced by the lactic acid ferment, which decomposes part of the milk sugar into lactic acid. This change of itself could scarcely be deleterious, but, frequently associated with the lactic acid fermentation, we have an accompanying weak butyric fermentation with the formation of small amounts of this tyrotoxin. Hence, clinically, we frequently find the use of sour milk by infants followed by diarrhoea.

Prof. Vaughan says (*Med. News*, June 18, 1887) that we have evidence for believing that this poison is an important factor in the causation of cholera infantum and similar diarrhoeas of children—the violence of the attack varying with the amount of the poison present. When we remember that these diseases are most prevalent among the poor classes of our large cities where fresh milk is almost unknown, we can readily understand their frequency. By such people milk is often not obtained until it has begun to sour; it is then kept at a high temperature, and often in a most foul atmosphere. In this state it is fed to little ones depressed by poverty and everything that poverty means. Moreover, we all know from actual observation how little attention is given to the food of children. Cows stand and are milked in filthy barns and yards; their udders are not generally washed before milking, and the vessels in which the milk is kept are not as clean