

ENTEROCLYSIS.

S. Newmayer, M.D., Phila., states:—Among the varied causes of convulsions none play a more frequent and important part than autointoxication. They are more frequent in children, due generally to a possible overfeeding, improper food or constipation. The intestinal canal contains a variety of toxins derived from the ingesta, bile and putrid material. There is continuous absorption from the intestines, including the taking up of toxins.

In the acute infections, where convulsions is oft-times a forerunner, autointoxication from the intestinal tract undoubtedly is of no minor importance. Infections are the result of microbes and we know these bacteria produce something injurious to the system—they elaborate poisonous ptomaines or toxic substances. Nature tries to rid the body of this poison through its various channels of elimination, one of which is the intestinal canal.

It is here we can aid nature with our antiseptics. The value of internal intestinal antiseptics I believe is greatly over-rated. Many of these drugs are soluble and absorbable and those that are not are so often given in such small doses that in the long journey from the mouth through the intestinal tract they have spent most of their value before they have proceeded far.

Not to employ internal antiseptics would be unwise. But I would urge a more liberal use of antiseptic solutions by means of the rectal tube. This enteroclysis has not only its antiseptic value, diminishing the toxicity of the intestinal tract, but oft-times an antipyretic action. This mode of treatment has not been very popular with the physician because of the unclean work, but I am confident the results well repay one for the labor.

In all cases of convulsions, immaterial of the cause, and in any other condition pointing to autointoxication, I flush the lower bowel with a solution of Glyco-Thymoline, one to two ounces to the quart of water.

Glyco-Thymoline is always kept in my emergency grip.

A VERY GRAVE ERROR.

The experience of many of the best men of the profession, not only of the United States but abroad, has established the clinical value of antikamnia tablets. Among those who have paid high tributes to their value and occupy positions of great eminence, may be mentioned