

DR. ROBERT T. EDES, of Boston, suggests a form of palatable and digestive milk in a communication to the *Medical Record ; Coll. and Clin. Rec.* He says :

I have never seen it mentioned in any text-book, and it did not come to me from a professional source, but from a lady who had been for a long time the patient of the late Dr. Pease, of Syracuse. Whether it originated with him I cannot say, but perhaps some of your readers in Central New York, by whom he is doubtless as pleasantly remembered as by myself, can tell me. It is as follows : A pint of milk is gently warmed. Into it is dropped, very slowly and with constant stirring, about twenty minims of the dilute hydrochloric acid of the United States Pharmacopœia. The milk should be stirred until it cools. In this way a very fine, flocculent coagulum is produced, floating in the whey, which is easily accessible to the digestive secretions, while the whole fluid has lost somewhat of the flat and cloying taste which makes it unacceptable to so many. It will be noticed that milk prepared in this way differs from the various "wheys" in the highly important particular that the casein is retained and used, while it avoids the bitterness of pancreatized milk. I have found it occasionally of great value when other preparations have been unacceptable either to the palate or the stomach.

RENAL CASTS.—In a very interesting and practical paper in the *Inter. Med. Mag.*, Dr. A. E. Austin gives the clinical significance of the three great groups of casts. The hyaline and blood casts merely indicate irritation and hyperæmia. Closely associated with hyaline casts is amyloid change of the kidney, due usually to suppuration, and with a good prognosis if the source of suppuration be removed. Epithelial, granular and fibrinous casts indicate acute inflammation of the renal tubules, the epithelial cast pointing to the mild stage ; that is, one of mere desquamation with urine slightly under normal in amount, specific gravity 1,030, high color, albumen a trace, numerous hyaline casts, free blood and renal epithelium. This may go on to brown or pale granular casts with diminution of the solids of the urine. The fatty and waxy casts, when numerous and persistent, indicate long-continued chronic inflammation of the kidney with bad prognosis.

Blood and epithelial cells are absent. In this case the urine is diminished in amount with increased specific gravity. The pale, granular and small hyaline casts point to fibroid kidney. Aside from the microscopical appearance, the general condition of the patient, age, sex, and previous history must be taken into consideration. It should be remembered that the diagnosis of casts alone may mean little, but the kind of casts in abundance is the important point.

THE ANGEL OF DEATH IS FLEET.—The *Glasgow Medical Journal* has the following antique legend, the moral of which is that Azrael had every facility at his disposal for the harvest of souls whenever the dread message was pronounced. According to the legend the ingenuity of man is wasted in trying to circumvent the grim pursuivant. The story is of King Solomon, who figures largely in Oriental tradition outside of Hebraic lore. It is told of him that, walking one day in a great city, accompanied by a friend, an awesome figure was perceived by them at the head of the street.

"Who is that?" inquired the friend in terror.

Solomon looked and answered: "It is the Angel of Death."

Then the friend begged of Solomon, who had the power of instantaneous transportation, to send him at once to some far off spot, and Solomon despatched him in a moment to India, thousands of miles away.

The Angel of Death meanwhile approached Solomon and asked: "Who was that man with whom you were just talking?"

Solomon gave the name, and the Angel of Death said: "Strange that he should have been here, for I am ordered to call for him to-night in India!"

PERCHLORIDE OF MERCURY IN WHOOPING-COUGH.—Raubitschek, *Therap. Monatsh.*, knowing the want of success attending the usual treatment of whooping-cough, determined in the case of his own three children to resort to a novel procedure. He thoroughly saturated a cotton-wool tampon with a 0.1 per cent. solution of perchloride of mercury, introduced it into the mouth, pressed it against the base of the tongue, thus allowing the fluid to trickle downwards