

Mercury.—Its transition through the milk was very feeble and irregular, and depended upon the quantity of milk absorbed.

Narcotics.—(a) *Tincture of Opium*, in doses of twenty to thirty drops. Thornhill has observed in the infant profound sleep. Fehling has noted neither prolongation of sleep nor constipation. (b) *Morphine Hydrochlorate*.—Solution 1-30; doses, gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{2}$. No ill effects upon the child. (c) *Chloral*.—Dose, gr. xv.—xlv. Mean duration of maternal sleep, two hours. No action was noted upon strong and vigorous infants. When the child is feeble or premature, there should always be an interval of at least two hours between the administration of the drug to the mother and nursing. (d) *Atropine Sulphate*.—Solution 1-100. Subcutaneous injection, gr. 1-200—1-120. Pronounced symptoms were observed in the mother. Dilatation of the pupils was noted in the infant, which disappeared in twenty-four hours. The drug should not be given to nursing mothers, except in very small doses.

Influence of Maternal Fever.—In an immense majority of case the milk has no effects upon the child. When the mother was the subject of a grave disease, with a persistent temperature of 104°, the fever curve of the infant presented the same characters as that of the mother. In a case of mastitis, Bumm has demonstrated the presence of micrococci in the milk and gastro-intestinal disturbance in the child.—*University Medical Magazine*.

ON TAKING FLUID WITH MEALS.

A great deal of misapprehension is often found to exist in the popular mind in regard to matters of eating and drinking; the cause of this, to some extent, is to be traced to old-time sayings which have come down to us in the form of a concentrated infusion of somebody's opinion upon subjects of which he or she was woefully ignorant. One of these misapprehension to which we may refer is as to the injuriousness of taking fluid with meals. One frequently hears it laid down as a maxim that "it is bad to drink with your meals, it dilutes the gastric." By way of explanation we may remark that "it implies that the fluid taken is harmful." Whence this sagacious postulate originally came we cannot tell; it has quite the ring about it of an inconsequent deduction formed by a person whose presumption of knowledge was only exceeded by a lamentable ignorance of the subject. Medical men often find much difficulty in dealing with these museum specimens of antiquated science, for even educated persons are disposed to cling to the absurdities of their youth. Upon this matter Mr. Hutchinson remarks in the last number of his "Archives": "I observe with pleasure that the verdict of general experience and common sense has been confirmed by scien-

tific experiment in the matter of taking fluid with meals. Dr. Tev. O Stratievsky, of St. Petersburg, after elaborate trials, has found that fluids materially assist the assimilation of proteids, and announces the following conclusion, which it is to be hoped no future experiments will controvert: "On the whole, the widely-spread custom of taking fluids during or just before one's meals, proves to be rational and fully justified on strict scientific grounds. To take fluids with the meals is almost as important an adjunct to digestion as is the mastication of solid food preparatory to swallowing it." It is obvious, however, that there is a limit to the amount of fluid one can swallow with impunity—not to speak of comfort—just as much with meals as at other times. It would be dangerous to create a general impression that fluid is good with food irrespective of quantity. It is, moreover, a well-ascertained clinical fact that an excess of empyrandial fluid does retard digestion in certain people, and gives rise to discomfort in most. A little attention to one's sensations in such matters will far better fix the desirable limit than all the "data" in the world.—*Medical Press and Circular*

TREATMENT OF ECZEMA.

I should like to call the attention of the profession to the value of a method of treating certain cases of eczema. It has been highly lauded by Prof. Unna, and my attention was called to it by a friend, Dr. D. W. Montgomery, whom I called in consultation for a case of eczema squamosa of both lower legs, attended with terrible and uncontrolable itching. The pruritus was of such a character as to resist all the ordinary treatment, and it was rapidly breaking down the patient's strength. In a very short time after using the formula given below, a most marked change took place in the troublesome symptom, and in fact the disease is being conquered:

R. Gelatine, .	3 iv
Zinc. oxid,	3 ijs
Glycerine,	3 ss
Aque,	3 vj

Heat the water, and dissolve in it the gelatine, then add the glycerine and zinc, stirring until cold.

This makes a stiff jelly. When used it is to be heated sufficiently so that it may be painted with a small varnish brush all over the effected parts, and a thin layer of cotton placed over it at once. This acts as a protecting scab which the patient is unable to tear off with the finger-nails; in fact it has such a soothing effect that the desire to scratch is of little moment.

It is quite unnecessary to say that the general health received due attention. The purpose of this correspondence is to call attention to the treatment.—*Dr. C. C. Vanderbeck in Pac. Med. Jour.*