

(d) The symptoms induced by the poison and those observed in the disease are identical.

(e.) The *post mortem* appearances are identical in the two cases.

These facts are supported by abundance of clinical and experimental evidence.

V. *The most efficient preventive treatment of the summer diarrhoeas will consist in giving more attention to the food, methods of feeding, and to the sanitary surroundings of children during the first two years of their lives.*

The dangers to children fed upon cows' milk, as compared with breast milk, apart from its greater difficulty of digestion, are principally two: in the first place the supply is not easily exhausted; in the second, overloading the stomach, the milk being often poured in *ad nauseam*. This constant overloading of the child's stomach not only interferes with, but disturbs the digestive apparatus.

A great many chemists have shown the differences between mothers' and cows' milk, but the great lesson to be learned is the much easier digestibility of the former; this may, to a certain extent, be remedied by predigesting cows' milk, but it is objectionable to fully carry out this process because if the child be fed wholly on predigested food, there will come a speedy abeyance or disorder of physiological functions in those organs concerned with digestion, and besides Brieger has shown that the artificial digestion of proteids is accompanied with the formation of a poisonous base called by him, peptotoxin. If this substance be formed in normal digestion it must be removed by the liver.

The author agrees with Dr. Smith that dextrin is the best form in which to add a carbohydrate to cows' milk.

VI. *In the curative treatment of the summer diarrhoeas of infancy, the destruction of the bacteria which are causing the abnormal fermentation, is a necessity.*

The surest method of destroying any plant or animal is to withdraw its food, and if milk in any form be withheld from the child the formation of tyrotoxin will cease, as the bacteria do not form the poison when fed on meat juices, albumen, etc. Thus, Brieger has shown that the typhus bacillus, although producing tyrotoxine in beef-tea solution, does not in peptone solution, and the author has shown the same to be the case for the

tyrotoxin ferment, as the poison is produced in milk but not in beef tea or solution of egg albumen. Therefore, in our treatment we should avoid any thing that will nourish the bacteria. "The prompt and complete withdrawal of every kind of milk, even that of the mother, in the treatment of the summer diarrhoeas of infancy, has been advocated for many years by eminent clinical teachers, and now the chemist and bacteriologist find that this recommendation is a good one, and have given a scientific explanation of it."

Epstein stops the use of milk, washes out the stomach, sometimes employing an antiseptic wash, gives solutions of albumen as food and germicides as medicines. Holt and others cleanse alimentary canal with a free dose of castor oil and sometimes wash out the large intestine. As regards germicides to protect the milk, the author finds that corrosive sublimate strength of 1-24000 pts. milk is sufficient, but as this is too much for an infant it would perhaps be better to use sodium salicylate, strength 0.5%.

#### The Administration of Medicine to Children.

Jacobi writes as follows on this subject, in the Archives of Pediatrics for May, 1888: In the administration of medicine excitement on the part of the patient must be avoided; the nervous system of infants and children loses its equilibrium very easily. Fear, pain, screaming, and self-defence lead to disturbances of circulation and waste of strength. Preparations for local treatment or the administration of a drug must be made out of sight, and the latter ought not to have an unnecessarily offensive taste. The absence of proper attention to this requirement has been one of the principal commendations of "homoeopathy," whatever that may have been, the last twenty-five years. Still, the final termination of the case and the welfare of the patient are the main objects in view, and the choice between a badly-tasting medicine and a fine looking funereal ought not to be difficult. In every case the digestive organs must be treated with proper respect; inanition is easily produced, and vomiting and diarrhoea must be avoided. The most correct indications and most appropriate medicines fail when they disturb digestion; it is useless to lose the patient while his disease is being cured.

The administration of a medicament is not always easily accomplished. Indeed, it is a difficult