

of the processes which go to make up the complex process which we call digestion. Mal-nutrition may belong to any period of intra or extra-uterine life. Children may be born dyspeptic and in the strictest sense of that word destined to find digestion difficult, no matter what we put in their stomachs. It has surprised me to note how many of the newly born have some degree of constriction or approach to an imperforate condition in some portion of the alimentary canal. Besides the cases of imperforate anus which are met with in the practice of almost every one of large experience, we have a much larger number in which it is exceedingly difficult to obtain a free evacuation of the meconium, and I recall one case in which death occurred when the child was one week old. Post mortem examination revealed that from the pylorus to the upper end of the rectum the intestine was a mere cord, entirely imperforate. This seems like drifting away from the subject of infant diet, but I wish to note just here that although in a vast majority of cases of indigestion and mal-nutrition of infants, the one thing needful is to regulate the diet, yet in a considerable number of cases there will be found a disability to digest anything; and since this disability may be organic and incurable, or simple and temporary, it becomes us to be vigilant that we may not fail to discover the true condition and apply the proper remedy in all remediable cases. For example: from an infant too weak to digest or even retain food of any kind— withhold a gentle stimulant and it will die; give the needful remedy and it may be saved. Another illustration is found in a babe suffering from malaria. Two to five grains of quinine given daily by inunction may enable the patient to thrive upon the same diet which immediately before seemed unsuitable. In this case a change of food might produce irreparable injury. It is then only by remembering that each case constitutes a study by itself that we shall avoid on the one hand the error of those who try to relieve all by medication, and on the other of those who imagine that a change of diet is the only thing to be thought of. In the hurry of medical practice there is no class of cases in which a "snap judgment" is more dangerous.

As a rule the young of any mammal is best nourished by the milk of its own mother. The exceptions to this rule are, however, so many that it is not the simple truism which at first glance it may seem. It occasionally happens that the apparently healthy milk of an apparently healthy mother will disagree with her child, and that the child will thrive better upon the milk of another person. Thousands of children are deprived of the maternal breast by the mother's death; by severe