

## Therapeutics.

### **The Management of Hernia in Infancy and Childhood:**

In the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, January 14th, 1905, Dr. William B. Coley, of New York, tells of the management of hernia in infancy and childhood. In Dr. Coley's opinion truss treatment should always be the method of choice in children under the age of four years. He cites these objections to this general rule: 1. If there is a history of strangulation that has become reduced by taxis, I believe that an operation is indicated, no matter how young the child. 2. In cases in which, despite carefully directed truss treatment, the hernia has become irreducible, or reducible with difficulty, I think early operation should be advised. 3. In cases in which the rupture cannot be controlled by a truss and, as a consequence, is gradually increasing in size. 4. In all cases of femoral hernia, the reason for prompt operation in this class being that a cure by persistent truss treatment is practically unknown at any age. 5. Immediate operation is indicated in all cases of hernia associated with reducible hydrocele, or fluid in the hernial sac, inasmuch as it is impossible to control the rupture by means of a truss, and there is, hence, nothing to be gained by waiting. Dr. Coley considers the "opposite-side" or "cross-body" truss the best. As to duration of treatment if a child has attained the age of four years, and the rupture has not been cured, then an operation should be performed.

### **Bread Substitutes for Diabetic Patients:**

R. T. Williamson, M.D., in the *Medical Chronicle* for January, says in deciding whether a diabetic bread-substitute should be employed or not, it is necessary to determine: 1st. Whether it is practically free from starch and sugar. 2nd. Whether the taste is agreeable to the patient. 3rd. Whether the cost of the preparation is too great for the patient's means or not. 4th. In the case of diabetic biscuits sold by various firms, whether they can be broken up by the patient's teeth. The following are the most useful of these bread-substitutes: Prepared from vegetable albumens—Roborat bread, Aleuronat cakes and gluten bread. Prepared from nuts—Almond cakes and cocoanut cakes. Pre-