

at every turn; accumulated heaps of refuse matter together with stagnant pools are to be met with everywhere, and to linger in the vicinity of a sewer grating is to have one's olfactory nerves assaulted by pestiferous gases pregnant with disease. The growl concerning the condition of affairs is almost universal, but as "there are none so blind as those who won't see," and in this case won't smell, this serious state of sanitation bids fair to continue until other eyes and other noses are at the head of civic affairs. The cant remark that the hot weather is the cause is utterly fallacious in the meaning it is intended to convey. It is not the atmospheric condition that is the proximate causation of disease, but its action on unsanitary and decomposing animal and vegetable matter which has been allowed to collect and set up putrefactive action, emitting gases which are said to form a purgative combination, but unquestionably are of a highly irritative character. It is not, therefore, the degree of temperature to which these epidemics of diarrhoea are to be attributed, but to the action of heat in producing noxious gases and organic matters through the neglect of proper sanitary precautions.

There is another cause, however, irrespective of that arising from the foregoing, which induces and aggravates diarrhoea, and though a vast amount of attention has been drawn to it, paradoxical as it may appear, very little attention is actually given to it, and that is proper food. In numerous instances when a child is seized with diarrhoea and vomiting, though accustomed to many kinds of nutriment, they are all abandoned for a milk diet. The argument is that the mother's milk is the natural food for the infant, failing that the cow's milk comes next, and the infant is dosed with it. A large proportion of

that swallowed is ejected in the form of curds, and what is taken into the system in many instances adds to the intestinal irritation. This is caused by the casein forming into masses in the stomach and intestines, the child's digestive organs being unable to assimilate it. This is one of the effects of cow's milk. The milk itself may contain morbid germs from decomposition, from being kept in closed or imperfectly cleaned vessels, or from standing near any noxious matter, and lastly though the milk may be as pure as it came from the cow it may contain highly irritative and poisonous qualities from the herbage on which the animal is fed. The prairies of this country abound with medicinal herbs of all kinds. It may be called to mind the rapidity with which a cow partaking of wild garlics impregnates the milk with its taste and odor as to render it useless. Unquestionably in the same way milch cows roaming on the prairies feed on herbs which, though having no deleterious effect on themselves, so enter into the mammary secretion as to render the milk absolutely unfit for infantile food. This does not apply to milch cows confined in old and carefully laid down pastures, but it does to all cattle allowed to roam, and more especially to those feeding on the abounding herbs of the Manitoba prairies. Milk is a prolific vehicle of disease. Some of the severest outbreaks of typhoid fever have been traced to its consumption. Some time since several cases of typhoid occurred in one of the most aristocratic districts of London. The drainage was examined and the water supply analyzed without finding anything to account for the onset of the disease. It was discovered that the fever attacked only the inhabitants of those houses who were supplied from a particular dairy some miles from London. A commission was