

Where the stomach is weak, its muscular action impaired, and its nerves over-sensitive, but little food should be taken into it at a time. The best diet is skimmed milk, half a pint every four hours. When milk is not well digested, lime-water is combined with it. Such foods as coffee, tea, and tobacco must, of course, be given up absolutely and at once. A sovereign article of diet is buttermilk. In buttermilk the casein of milk is coagulated and broken up, so that the stomach is spared two steps of the regular process of digestion. Another excellent preparation of milk is koumyss. It contains a good deal of carbonic acid. In all cases the stomach's work should be made easier by a diet consisting of eggs, milk, starchy vegetables, stewed fruits, and a little butter, with stale bread.

IDIOPATHIC PERITONITIS.

If the case is brought into the wards at the very inception of the disease, the patient is bled thoroughly from the arm. If the disease is of many hours' standing, the abdomen is covered with as many leeches as it will hold. After venesection, calomel is administered in doses of from one-quarter to one-half of a grain every hour. In connection with the calomel, opium is given in large doses. Opium induces quiet and prevents the exhaustion consequent upon horrible physical pain. Enough opium is given to keep the patient on the verge of narcotism. It had better be given in liquid form.

In the latter stages of peritonitis, blisters are always employed.

The first thing done, however, when the leeches have been removed, is to apply poultices; whether they be hot or cold makes but very little difference. Where there is a very marked tendency to feverishness, cold poultices are used. If the abdomen is too tender to bear the weight of the ice-bag, light flannel cloths wrung out of ice-water may be used. On the other hand, a warm-water dressing may be employed with advantage in very many cases. Warm water acts not only as a local derivative, but some of it probably oozes through the intervening tissues into the abdomen, and so acts directly upon the inflamed peritoneum as a soothing agent.

After the abdomen has been thoroughly poulticed for two or three days, blisters are used, provided the temperature of the body has not remained high. The blister should not be a small one—eight inches by ten makes a very good size.

Where there is any septic element in the disease, quinia is used with great benefit. Generally the stomach is not strong enough to bear it.

The patient must have but very little food in the first few days of the attack. The food which is given is that which leaves the least residuum of undigested matters, and, therefore, causes the least amount of peristaltic action on the part of the intestines. Milk, in repeated small doses, is

the food usually given. At the end of a few days, solid articles are allowed. When there are symptoms of exhaustion late in the course of the attack, beef-tea is given as a stimulant. Alcohol is not only powerless, but even dangerous in the early stages of the disease. A few doses of brandy in the first few days of an attack of peritonitis may produce death.

With regard to the opening of the bowels during convalescence, a purgative or an enema is never used. These bring violently into play all the muscles of the abdomen. Very often there will be a spontaneous movement on the fifth or sixth day without any medicine at all. If there is not such an opening, a small dose of castor oil is given at the end of ten days. If there is retention of urine, the water is, of course, drawn off by means of the catheter.

Great care is had during convalescence from peritonitis to prevent a relapse. No violent or gymnastic exercise is allowed for a long time afterwards.---*New York Medical Record.*

A DESCRIPTION OF THE CONJOINED TWINS, MARIE-ROSA DROUIN.

(With Plate.)

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This remarkable specimen of the fusion in part of the bodies of two female children was brought to Montreal for exhibition during the month of April, 1878. It was exceedingly difficult to make a thorough examination of the children, as the mother was strongly opposed to having them handled or touched. By frequent visits, and by obtaining the consent of the mother to see the children whilst she was washing and dressing them, I succeeded in making out, not only the most important points relating to their union, but also in obtaining an excellent drawing, by Hawksett, of the appearances which they present anteriorly and posteriorly. The specimen belongs to St. Hilaire's class of *Monstres Doubles*; *Famille Sysomien*; *Genres-Psodyme*; to Playfair's division of *Dicephalous Monsters*.

The children lie in their mother's arms much as they are represented in the plate, the two upper separated portions being about in a line with each other, and each forming nearly a right angle with the single trunk. The one to the left of the observer, named *Marie*, resembles the mother, has a fairer complexion, is more strongly developed and healthier looking than her sister *Rosa*, who is smaller, darker, more delicate-looking and resembles the father. They are both bright, lively and intelligent children. The two bodies, from the heads as far as the abdomen, are well formed, perfectly developed, and in a state of good nutrition. The union between them commences at the