

Considering the extreme susceptibility of infants to the use of this drug, it would certainly appear distinctly contra-indicated under the above conditions, and if used at all, reserved only for the most severe cases, characterized by the continuance of much pain and frequent watery movements, and even then would stimulants not be more beneficial? It should decidedly not be used unless strict evacuation and irrigation of the bowel has preceded it, and then never in composition, but always alone and in small repeated doses, that its effects may be more carefully watched.

Many other medicinal agents are recommended and used as routine treatment, the essential oils, astringents, etc. On what ground is their efficacy based? Apart from the irritating effect many of them possess, their action does not seem to meet the indications in the present case.

Perhaps the only astringent drug which is really of service in this connection is bismuth, which also possesses sedative qualities and may be safely used, when required, in fairly large and repeated doses.

In considering the foregoing remarks, and viewing the disease as toxic in character—chiefly due to disordered function—the main therapeutic indications which suggest themselves appear to be :

Elimination, antisepsis, perfect digestion.

Elimination claims the first attention. By it we endeavor to assist Nature in her effort to expel offending material from the gastrointestinal tract. Once decomposition and fermentation start in food and the digestive functions in abeyance, and we have all the conditions necessary for a perfect culture medium for germs. If we can hope to at once sweep out this irritating substance, and, by allowing the stomach and bowels as complete rest as possible, to restore digestion, at the same time endeavoring to keep the tract fairly antiseptic, we may reasonably look for natural recovery. Some cases point directly to the occurrence of an attack, following the ingestion of food known to have been irritating or unsuitable. Prompt emesis in these instances will frequently be followed with good results, and serve to shorten an otherwise tedious attack. In all severe cases, whatever the cause, much benefit will be experienced from thorough irrigation of the colon.

As an initial cathartic, calomel would appear to possess decided advantages. It is usually well borne by the stomach. It aids digestion, stimulates the glands to activity, thereby tending to restore their tone and is known to possess decided antiseptic properties.

In considering antisepsis in this connection, calomel again may