

tural drain fall, and a large river in front of us to carry it away. Better spend the money in increasing our water supply, than waste it on a fancy. Until health matters become of more importance than at present and a Board of Health is formed independent of the whimsicalities of aldermen but little hope can be expected of an improved sanitation.

#### PHYSIOLOGICAL EXPERIMENTS ON DIGESTION, ALIMENTATION AND NUTRITION.\*

While the diastasic activity of Maltine has been fully demonstrated by chemical experiment outside the body, by almost every known chemist, it has remained a moot point whether diastasic action is not arrested in the stomach by the acidity of the gastric juice. Prof. Haines proves that, while acids in excess will retard, or even destroy diastasic action, yet the proportion in which they exist in the stomach produces an exactly opposite effect. Dogs were selected for the experiments made by Prof. Haines, and, although the gastric juice of this animal is rather unfavorable for such investigation (being of somewhat higher acidity than that of man) results proved that the acid reaction materially hastened, instead of retarding, the conversion of starch. Prof. Haines concludes his interesting report in the following words: "I believe, the digestive action of Maltine on starch, instead of being stopped by the gastric juice, is generally much accelerated by its presence. The idea, therefore, that widely prevails that malt preparations lose their virtue in contact with the acids of the stomach is, I am convinced, unquestionably erroneous. On the contrary, the acids of the stomach, at least in the earlier stages of digestion, strongly stimulate diastasic action, and, therefore, to get the best effect from such a preparation as Maltine, it should be administered as soon as possible after eating, or even during the meal itself; its action will then be accelerated by the gastric juice,—it will have an abundance of time to act on the starch of the food taken, and, by rendering it soluble and absorbable, it will remove it from the stomach in the early stages of digestion, and, consequently, leave the albuminoids of the food undisturbed by other substances, to be more rapidly and more efficiently acted upon by the pepsin of the gastric juice."

\*H. P. Gisborne, 10 Colborne st., Toronto.

#### BARAVENA MILK FOOD.

We would call attention to this new and valuable food for children, which comes to us recommended by many well known Canadian physicians. We gladly add our own word of commendation for the preparation. It is an absolutely pure compound of specially prepared farina of wheat and barley, in which the starch has been converted into dextrine, combined with pure milk and sugar, so that when mixed with water, as directed for feeding the child, it contains all the casein, butter, sugar, and other mammalian constituents nearest in quality and quantity to mothers' milk of any food made. The analyses of Dr. Edwards and Dr. Ellis, ordered by the Government, are eminently satisfactory.

#### THE ANNALS OF SURGERY.

We gladly welcome the issue of the *Annals of Surgery*; a monthly publication, to be issued simultaneously in St. Louis and in London, Eng. It is the successor to the *Journal of Anatomy and Surgery* formerly published in Brooklyn, and is the first and at present the only journal published in the English language devoted entirely to Surgery. Judging from its first issue it is to be of a high standard, and it certainly has a large and important field to work in.

#### LOCAL AND GENERAL.

Our quinquennial small-pox epidemic is now due. When it comes, as it probably will next winter, and has passed, some interesting questions may be answered. Have the vaccination activity lately displayed by our city council and the increased sanitary precautions done much to limit the prevalence of the disease? Have the vaccinated and re-vaccinated resisted to a greater degree the influence of the disease? What sections of the city have suffered most? Unprejudiced replies would furnish a valuable contribution to the literature of the vaccination question.

I understand that the epidemic lately raging north of Belleville has about died out. The Ontario Board of Health deserve credit for the way in which they dealt with this dreaded disease, and to their exertions is largely due the prompt extinguishing of the plague. Some political capital has been sought to have been made out of the action of the Government, but it will probably not amount to much.