

The casein of cow's milk, on the other hand, curdles in large lumps which cannot be digested by the infantile juices. These lumps become sour from the development of the bacillus lacticus, and these hard, undigested masses irritate the stomach and intestinal canal.

In many cases the milk is given sour to the child, either from uncleanness of the bottle or tube, or from carelessness in storing or preparing the milk. "Usually, a single administration of sourish milk suffices to induce a severe intestinal catarrh that will last for weeks." *

The diarrhoea which occurs in nurslings seldom arises from irritation from the nutriment—mother's milk—but is generally, or at least most frequently, caused by dentition or from some disease of the wet nurse or mother.

In regard to the relation of bacteria as an exciting cause of intestinal catarrh and cholera infantum, "Booker has discriminated forty varieties, the greatest number of which were found in cholera infantum. Not one specific kind, but many different kinds of bacteria are concerned, and that their action is manifested more in alteration of the food and intestinal contents and in the production of injurious products than in direct irritation upon the intestinal wall." *

If the child has developed an *intestinal catarrh*, and instead of progressing toward recovery, serious symptoms show themselves, as uncontrollable diarrhoea and vomiting, great prostration with high fever, this is evidence of bacteria having grown and multiplied in the intestinal canal, where the conditions for their development were most favorable.

The absorption of large quantities of these bacilli produce a toxæmia with profound intoxication of the system by these agents. This explains why some cases of summer diarrhoea end in an attack of cholera infantum.

"True cholera infantum is an exceedingly rare disease. Holt, Starr, and other authorities give about two to three per cent. of all cases of summer diarrhoea." †

The prognosis of uncomplicated intestinal catarrh is generally good, but some cases tend to become chronic, and *instead* of the fæces becoming of a more solid consistence and normal odor and color, they become more liquid and saturate the napkins and sur-

* Osler, Practice.

† Illoway, N. F. M. J., Vol. LX.