

finer oils is of recent origin. Toward the end of the last century, it was largely administered in the form of an emulsion combined with hypophosphites under the mistaken belief that it possessed nutritive properties and could serve as a substitute for cod liver oil.

2. In 1899 Dr. Robert Hutchison repeated the almost forgotten experiments of Dr. Randolph (1884), and proved that petroleum was not absorbed from the bowel, that it had no nutritive properties, and that the only imaginable therapeutic purpose it could serve was as a substitute for mucus.

3. Acting on this suggestion, in 1906 I began to use paraffin as a rational specific in the treatment of constipation in infants.

4. I found petroleum emulsion extremely useful in the treatment of all forms of indigestion in infants.

5. Its efficacy in these conditions may depend on:

- (a) its lubricating properties.
- (b) its antiseptic properties.
- (c) its cleaning up effect on the mucous membrane.

6. Petroleum emulsion is a most useful vehicle for all sorts of drugs, soluble as well as insoluble, which are prescribed for infants. It may be given with perfect safety in very large doses.

