

feebled or wholly suspended. The danger from its continuous and exclusive use arises from its coagulating in lumpy masses, which act practically as solid food; but the many means which are at the disposal of the physician and nurse make it possible to overcome this difficulty almost completely, and by processes of artificial digestion milk may be given ready for absorption, so that nutrition is rendered quite independent of stomach and intestinal digestion. In a large majority of cases, therefore, milk is altogether the best food. The natural nerve food, as supplied by nature in mother's milk, is Lactalbumin, the soluble proteid of whey. This can be procured in three forms, Nos. 1, 2 and 3. The Lactalbumins are not to be confused with other products, which, though soluble proteids, are prepared by rendering casein soluble by treatment with chemicals. Lactalbumin No. 1 contains 99 per cent. proteid matter, but has not a trace of casein or sugar of milk, and is specially suitable in the treatment of phthisis, typhoid, diabetes, diseases of the nervous system, in fact for all cases where extreme wasting is taking place. As the patient recovers ground, a mixture of Nos. 1 and 2 may be given, No. 2 containing 50 per cent. Lactalbumin and 50 per cent. caseinogen. No. 2 can be used with great benefit where the patient is not in a very serious condition, such as the first stages of tuberculosis. Lactalbumin No. 3 is exactly the proportion of proteids in mother's milk, and makes an ideal form of diet in anemic conditions, and especially for rachitic infants. The Lactalbumins are nothing but soluble whey proteids, having a definite value as a food for the nerve centres, thus enabling the various organs to act for themselves. That they have a most important medical value also is shown by the fact that in a patient fed with only eight ounces per week of Lactalbumin, together with ordinary diet, the increase of weight per week is out of all proportion to the amount of Lactalbumin given, being ordinarily six or ten times as much.

For infant feeding, the Lactalbumins constitute a food of undoubted value.

They are not only pure, but free from ferment, and can be given to the youngest infant, containing (as they do) the exact constituents of mother's milk, less the sugar, which may be added in quantity according to age or direction of physician; or on the other hand, the infant may be fed this, the nursing mother partaking of the food, where her own milk supply is defective or deficient or her health below par.

The value of the Lactalbumins in the treatment of disease is shown in the following two cases, recently under notice:

A. G., aged 23, was seized with a chill about 8 p.m., May 2nd, 1903. He had a severe epistaxis on three occasions during the preceding four or five days, and a great deal of frontal headache for two weeks before. When seen the temperature was 100.2,