

Weaning of the child is often necessary on the return of menstruation, or of another pregnancy. After a lactation period of nine or ten months the drain on the mother's system is often very marked, and a normal child ought never be suckled past this age, unless during hot weather, and it be the wish of the mother to continue nursing through the summer months.

Lastly, death of the mother will demand that the child be fed artificially.

**Foods:**—All mammalian offspring are carnivora, the human, being no exception, hence the food should essentially be animal and not vegetable in character. The milk of each species is the real physiological food for its progeny.

From preceding paragraphs, the many instances cited requiring artificial feeding, naturally raises the question of what food is to be substituted. Wet nursing might be suggested and at first sight appears to approach Nature's method very closely. But the many disadvantages experienced places this method in a doubtful category. Under certain circumstances mixed feeding may be very satisfactorily carried out. But in a great many cases complete artificial feeding is the only alternative.

The food to be used has now to be determined.

A great number of patent preparations are available, but these are chiefly farinaceous and constitute a foreign body in the infant's stomach. Besides, when used, they are prescribed empirically and this cannot be too strongly condemned. Mare's milk, ass's milk, goat's milk and the like have all been used, chiefly experimentally. Ass's milk has been largely used in Paris, but is now completely discarded. Cow's milk is now the form universally used. It is cheap, easily obtainable, and contains chemically the same constituents as human milk, although their composition varies widely.

Prof. Czerny (Breslau), maintains that none of these other milks possess any intrinsic value which should establish their preference over wholesome cow's milk.

**FOOD MODIFICATION:** Granted that a pure milk supply is obtainable, the problem of modifying this milk to suit the patient, confronts the physician. The object of modification of milk is to alter the constituents so as to imitate as nearly as possible mother's milk, to infringe on Nature's diet, and so adapt the supplemental food to the child. No hard and fast rule can be laid down, but each case must be studied individually. The great difficulty is proteid adaptation. It will be remembered that the proteids of cow's milk are of much higher per-