

ings may rally, but if the child be young or if the vitality be low, the symptoms persist, the prostration increases, and in a few days death will take place from exhaustion. Many cases of both the mild and severe forms have a tendency to relapse, they respond to treatment and improve for a time, then relapse, then improve again. Such cases may linger on till the cool weather and recover, or develop into chronic entero-colitis or die of some intercurrent disease.

Acute Infectious Diarrhoea or Cholera Infantum is a rare but fatal form of disease: All the symptoms are essentially toxic, the impression made upon the heart and nervous system is as sudden as it is profound. A child apparently well or perhaps suffering from some slight derangement of the bowels is taken with persistent vomiting and purging. The contents of the stomach are first thrown off. Then bile and mucus. The stools, for a time, may contain solid and undigested matter, but later on large, dark, watery motions are expelled with great force. As the disease progresses the stools are more frequent and are composed of almost pure blood serum. Meantime the temperature rises to  $104^{\circ}$  F. or  $105^{\circ}$  F., the pulse is weak and irregular, the tongue red and dry, thirst is extreme, the strength declines and the flesh wastes rapidly, and unless there be a reaction within forty-eight hours the condition will be one of extreme depression. In a few of the cases met with a favorable reaction sets in, vomiting ceases, the stools become less frequent, pulse improves, temperature and nervous symptoms subside and the child recovers. In the cases going on to a fatal termination a deathly pallor spreads over the face, the features are pinched, eyes sunken, skin clammy, extremities cold, radial pulse weak or absent, respiration shallow, then stupor comes and death.

Were it possible to secure for infants pure air, proper food, and absolute cleanliness of person and clothing, the treatment of summer diarrhoea would be comparatively easy; but in many cases the best efforts of the physician are thwarted and the success of his treatment limited by circumstances. The injunction of the ancients "*obsta principis*"—prevent the beginning—is peculiarly applicable. Every case of infectious diarrhoea has its beginning and at the beginning is the time to check it. And