

## THE EDITOR'S SPECIAL CORNER.

THIS month we give a good deal of space to the very important subject, especially at this season, of the chief causes of the high infant summer mortality and its prevention, which bears strongly upon infant diet. The Committee on Dietetics and the Section of Diseases of Children of the American Medical Association have most wisely taken up the consideration of the question of Infant Feeding. We are pleased to find that the report of the sub-committee on Infant feeding, but just published in the Philadelphia Medical Times (June '88), is fully in accord with the views we have given in our special article on this subject in another part of this number.

IN the case of an infant, or a child under ten months of age, deprived of breast-milk, the report states, the artificial substitute provided should be made to correspond with human milk as closely as possible, both in its chemical, constitution and in its physical characters. Fresh unadulterated cow's milk, when PROPERLY PREPARED, is an acceptable substitute for breast-milk. That is, prepared by diluting with something that will divide the curd. As a rule, raw starch is inadmissible in the diet of young infants, because the digestive powers of the infant are rarely sufficiently active to convert crude starch into a soluble form. The starch must be converted into glucose by LONG boiling. Great care must be exercised that any peptonizing powders which may be used are perfectly good and fresh. Practically, Dr. Earle says, "they disagree with a considerable number of babies."

THE Committee are retained and are to continue their investigations. The Medical Times suggests that the "Association should define what constitutes a perfect food, and leave the manufacturers to come up to the standard so set. As the Czar said, when he drew a straight line to represent the course of the railway. 'There is your road; let the people move up.'" Not one of the multitudinous infants foods in the market, each and every one of which, according to the manufactures, are better than all the others, was recommended by the committee.

THE drowning season is at hand and within the next three or four months many lives will be lost from bathing and boating in deep water. Many of these lives might be saved if it were an invariable rule with every one who could not swim well never to go into or on water beyond the depth of the individual; and never when over heated to go into the water. But alas these rules will be followed but by few and many will suffer. If the thoughtfulness and watchfulness of parents were more exercised, and children were taught fully the art and practice of swimming, fewer lives would be sacrificed.

BEARING upon the art of cookery the N. Y. Medical Journal has a good article, under the head of the Physician and Domestic Reform. Cookery and agriculture are arts of civilization. Savages understand neither: said Count Rumford. "The friends of social improvement are now called upon to