

while surely destructive of the genus is not, in doses large enough to be efficacious, injurious to the human system. The agent which will destroy the multitude of one-celled beings will injure if not destroy the multiplicity of single cells which unitedly form the baby.

The first step in treating this disease, then, should be to empty the bowels thoroughly, and thus get rid of all undigested food or other irritating substances, and, if possible, sweep out of the intestines the cause of the trouble. The particular agent to be employed rhubarb, castor oil, mercury, etc., is rather a matter of individual choice than a point of importance. Having attended to this, if the child is well nourished and in good general condition, I have not the slightest doubt that the best cure is absolute withdrawal of food for twelve to twenty-four hours with a free supply of water during this time. Such an interval of rest gives the digestive organs time to recover themselves while the fluid given aids in the washing out process begun by the purgative.

If the child is feeble or if not presented to us until late in the disease when collapse is either present or imminent, then the starvation plan would not be advisable for fear of weakening the patient too much. What food then shall be given? Milk, if it can be obtained from the mother's breast, and he would be rash indeed who should try or suggest any substitute. But in bottle-fed babies or in infants who have been weaned, is cow's milk generally available as the principal part of the diet? Though the physician has frequently to insist on the superiority of milk as an infant's food, yet when diarrhoea begins little progress will be made until milk is wholly withdrawn for a time. Whether the rapid coagulation into large dense clots be due to small particles of undigested milk remaining in the stomach like the small curd adhering to the side of the poorly cleaned bottle, or whether it be due to an increased acidity of the gastric secretions it is undoubtedly the case that as long as a milk diet is continued, vomiting is persistent and the diarrhoea grows worse. Even the time-honored lime-water has little effect in aiding the stomach to retain and digest

the milk and artificial digestion with pancreatic extract is not as successful in the summer fluxes as in many other cases of disease in children.

The foods which we are compelled to give are not physiologically perfect as they do not contain all the elements of tissue formation and heat-production, but three requisites they must possess—ease of digestion, non-coagulability and fluidity. Dr. Fothergill was a strong advocate of the need of starchy foods, because of their heat generating nature and their slight demands upon the stomach, as they are digested in the upper part of the small intestine. Hence we give barley or rice water, thin corn-starch or strained gruel. In order to improve the food values of these articles it is wise to add two or three table-spoonfuls of cream to each half-pint of the fluids.

Whatever be the tissue building powers of meat broths as determined by chemical analysis, there can be no doubt of their efficacy in aiding us to tide over this period of difficulty in digestion by furnishing a readily-absorbed fluid.—Chicken and veal broths may act either as stimulating and invigorating drinks or more probably as suppliers of the inorganic constituents of the body which are being so rapidly drained away in the discharges. Broths may be improved by having rice or barley boiled with them so as to combine the good qualities of both elements and in smaller bulk for the child's stomach.

Nitrogenous material may be supplied in either of two readily assimilated forms. The white of an egg stirred, not beaten, in a coffee-cupful of water is generally retained and digested by the weak stomach, especially if a small quantity of salt is added. Beef blood, or using the more euphonious name, beef-juice, is also a capital form of nutriment.

Two or three other points must be noted very briefly, as my article is growing too long. Stimulants are often needed in the later stages and are best given with food, brandy in the white of egg and water, or sherry made with milk into white wine whey. Food should be given with some degree of regularity, and the hand of the anxious mother must often