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Communications solicited on all Medical and Scientific subjects, and also Reports of Cases occurring in practice. Address, DR. J. L. DAVISON, 12 Charles St., Toronto.

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SUMMER COMPLAINT.

With the hot sultry season the usual quota of infantile diarrhoeas makes its appearance, and the white crape and drawn blinds too frequently remind us of its disastrous effects on the infant population of our cities and large towns.

Few medical practitioners there are, but will be called upon to treat numbers of these cases, and many will doubtless see their best efforts, at times, prove futile, and their little patient slip through their fingers, as it were, in spite of all that medical science can suggest.

It will not be inopportune at this juncture to briefly consider this subject.

Generally speaking, the cause of these troubles is some error in the diet of an infant or young child during the hot weather.

The disease cannot well be confounded with anything else, if we but keep in mind the following diagnostic points, as given by Goodhart: "The fever, vomiting, number and appearance of the stools, the age, season and locality of occurrence, and almost epidemic prevalence of the disease."

As regards the management of these cases much has been written but they still present a sad fatality.

In this disease, above all others, so much can be done to prevent trouble, that it becomes the duty of every physician, to do what he can, by advising those who have the care of infants he may be brought into contact with professionally,

as to the best means of escaping from these evils. Those who have the means of taking their little ones away from the city to the seaside or some watering place nearer home should do so; while less fortunate individuals may do much by regular bathing, good food, proper and clean clothing and beds, and by keeping the children during the day in the parks and public squares; an occasional, or still better, daily excursion, on a river or lake boat, combined with the above, will usually suffice to carry the baby safely over the dangerous period.

When an attack occurs immediate removal to the country or some watering place with strict attention to diet may, in itself, be sufficient to effect a cure.

Its effect is sometimes magical. The resort chosen should be near at hand, lest the journey prove fatiguing, but the change of air must be decided.

Should this be impracticable the child may be kept in the parks, or on the boat during the whole day, selecting a cool, shady spot.

The clothing should be as thin as possible, but always with woolen next the skin.

Frequent sponging with tepid water, or, if there be prostration, a full warm bath, will be found of great service.

With regard to diet definite rules should be laid down, as many mothers are prone to great errors in this direction. The thirst may be quenched by cold filtered water, in moderate quantities, or even small pieces of cracked ice may be allowed.

If the child be at the breast, the intervals of feeding should be restricted to every two or three hours, and the duration of nursing may be shortened as may seem advisable; the practice of putting the child to the breast every time it cries cannot be too strongly condemned. With hand fed children, cow's milk forms the basis of most foods, and may be prepared in a variety of ways. A useful preparation may easily be made by adding two parts of whey, previously boiled, to one part each of good cows milk, and lime water.

Should milk disagree, it must be stopped altogether and whey, chicken or mutton broth, raw beef juice, or barley water substituted. The medicinal treatment should be begun by a purgative, of which there is none better, for this purpose, than the old-time castor oil, which is cheap, handy, and efficient.