

THE SOUP BATH.

The importance of tiding children over a considerable period of time, in certain chronic diseases of the bowels, is appreciated by every practitioner. When the bowels are in such a condition that even the blandest foods act as irritants, and the digestive processes are very imperfectly performed, nourishment cannot be administered in quantities at all commensurate with the wants of the system, and the child eventually sinks from pure inanition. If the stomach does not reject food, enough may be absorbed in that organ to keep nutrition fair, for some time; but, as is a common experience, the simplest alimentation is sometimes too much for the stomach, and other means have to be sought to keep up the patient's strength. Rectal feeding may be useful, but in the great majority of these cases, the lower bowel is in so irritable a condition as to be intolerant of even the most carefully prepared and administered nutrient enemata.

Inunction with some of the oils, preferably olive oil, will aid other measures, the abdomen being the region usually selected for the friction, which should be gentle and produced by the warmed hand of the nurse. A table-spoonful or two may be thus used two or three times a day. But in such cases, says Dr. Hopkins, in the *Medical Record*, "the soup bath becomes a boon beyond all price. It not only relieves the thirst (which may be accomplished also by prolonged immersion in tepid water) but imparts sufficient nourishment to tide the patient over the critical period. We have known a child's life most evidently saved by this simple means. Let some pieces of mutton or other meat, sufficient for making two or three gallons of good soup, be first simmered for an hour and then boiled sufficiently long to thoroughly soften and extract the juices. In skimming, do not take away all the fat. The latter may be skimmed off while cooling and kept warm for inunction later. Pour the soup, when ready, into the little bath-tub, and, when sufficiently cool, immerse the child in it for a period of twenty minutes. It should, of course, have sufficient depth to cover the entire body, the head being supported by the nurse's hand. This should be repeated twice daily, the bath being re-warmed for a second use, and a fresh soup made if possible, each day. Let the

bath be followed by inunction of the entire body with the warm fat that was set aside. After two or three days, if the case improves, the stomach will begin to retain light nourishment."

THE GERMAN SURGEONS' REPORT.

Now that the Emperor Frederick is dead, and the Empress has, by her accession, received the property which could not have come to her had he never ascended the throne, the German surgeons are showing up Mackenzie in a manner that will not be approved of by the profession, and which will have the effect of lowering the estimation of medical science and skill in the eyes of the whole world. It is easy to be wise after the event, and the reports submitted by Drs. Bergmann, Schroetter and Gerhardt show this wisdom in a large measure. They "knew all along" what was the trouble, and would make it appear that Mackenzie removed a healthy piece of larynx, which Virchow diagnosticated as *pachydermia laryngis*. This sounds rather absurd on the face of it. We shall, no doubt, be left in the dark as to the true inwardness of the case for some time to come, Dr. Mackenzie keeping very quiet, and only giving an outline of a more full and complete report to come. In this short report he says:

"In my opinion the disease from which the Emperor died was cancer. The morbid process probably commenced in the deepest tissues of the cartilaginous structures of the larynx, and they became affected at a very early date. A small growth, which was present when I first examined the late Emperor, was removed by me by several operations, and all the portions taken away were submitted to Professor Virchow. He was unable to detect in them any evidence of the existence of cancer. Examinations made at the beginning of March by Professor Waldeyer, however, led to the belief that cancer was then present. Whether the disease was originally cancerous, or assumed a malignant character some months after its first appearance, it is impossible to state. The fact that perichondritis and caries of the cartilages played an active and important part in the development of the disease, no doubt largely contributed to make it impossible to form a decided opinion as to its nature till quite a recent date."