

Note and Comment

Politics cannot be spoken of as a profession. The term, though in very general use, is clearly a misnomer. A professional training is undoubtedly of great service, to those especially who may enter or wish to enter public life, but it is by no means an indispensable qualification. In Canada the highest political honors of the country have, it is true, gone largely to men of professional standing, as, for instance in recent times, to Sir John A. Macdonald, Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Abbott, Sir John Thompson, Sir Wilfrid Laurier; though we find that in the bulk of political preferment and distinction the greater number of Government portfolios and the great number of departmental deputies are held by men who have had no professional training, and many of them very little education of any kind, men of self-made, whose success is a repudiation of the claim that the calling of a politician is a profession or that professional training is a necessity. It is a courtesy title used no doubt with the desire of giving the occupation a definite status, though it is sufficiently honorable and all important, in itself, to stand on its own merits—and may claim indeed to include a status beyond the reach of any merely professional man. To a large number in the British Parliament politics constitute a pastime rather than either a professional or a business occupation; to men in the American Congress they constitute a desirable business opening and are largely availed of to promote the personal and individual material interests of those who succeed in entering either branch of the Legislature. In Canada, it is to be hoped, those who are in public life, and those who aspire to it, are animated by better motives, that they regard it from a higher standpoint. Neither as a pastime, on the one hand, or on the other, as an opportunity for self-advancement at the State's expense. The late John Kelly, of New York who was regarded as the incorruptible chief of Tammany, and of whom it is claimed that he "left to his family and friends the noble heritage of an unsullied name," in his dying moments warned all young men to avoid the "political profession," as he termed it, because it was surrounded with temptations to dishonesty and manifold dissipation which too often lured their victims to hopeless degradation and eventual wreck. Though not, however, a profession, politics are a study, a useful, interesting, honorable and profitable study, and it is well that, while all should not ambition political distinction all should inform themselves on the history of their country, its constitution and the character of those who make and guard it; that the masses should be thoroughly educated, and that those who are elected to representative positions should feel that they are the choice of an intelligent, well-informed electorate to whom they will have to respond for their every act. It is well, it is patriotic, to study politics; it is folly to treat or designate them as a profession.

It is cheering to know that so many commercial organizations amongst our neighbors are openly favoring and advocating the re-establishment of Reciprocity with the Dominion. The time for a movement in this direction is opportune, because of the nearing of the Quebec Conference. It is to be hoped, too, that there is truth in the reported growth of sentiment in favor of this policy through the States generally, and that the opportunity about to offer for its discussion will be fully availed of by the commissioners representing Canadian interests. If, as reported, the commercial world of the States is strong in favor of better and freer trade relations between the two countries, it is safe to say that in this the people of Canada are as one with them, and these facts should count for much. The New York Times and the Commercial Advertiser of that city are not, it is true, very encouraging as to the prospects, on the ground that the commissioners from the States are ultra-Protectionists, and that Congress does not favor the principle; but it is to be hoped that with the improved tone of feeling which now happily exists, and the fact that so many representative bodies and individuals in the Republic are so well disposed to the idea, that we shall see, if not a complete, at least a partial measure of Reciprocity as one of the results of the impending meeting.

The boom in cruiser-building still continues and things promise to be lively for months to come in the ship yards of the Thames and the Clyde. The First Lord of the Admiralty has asked for a further grant of £8,000,000 sterling (\$40,000,000) in the supplementary estimates, being in addition to £15,000,000 sterling in the original programme. This is in accordance with the naval

policy of the Empire which requires that the navy of Great Britain shall be equal to the combined fleets of any two powers. Russia has decided on a similar line of action, and as a consequence of the fact that she is about to lay the keels of six battleships the British Admiralty will build four cruisers and twelve destroyers to offset the proposed increase in the Russian Navy. The statement made by Mr. Goschen was received by the House of Commons with cheers. These four ships will be especially adapted for the Suez Canal. It is regrettable that the boom in battleships cannot be shared by the merchant navy of the Empire.

Generosity, like ambition, sometimes overleaps itself and runs riot—a case in point recently occurred. On the 19th of the present month, a Boston down train was saved from destruction by the presence of mind and pluck of a "small boy." Professions of undying gratitude were profuse, coupled with expressions of admiration for the courage and coolness of the youth who had averted what might, and no doubt would have been a great disaster. That the prevalence of such feelings should lead to the adoption of some mode of practical recognition on the part of the grateful passengers, is not surprising, and, hence, a subscription list was immediately opened and, in less than four hours and before the train arrived at its destination, the munificent sum of one hundred and eighty cents was realized and formally presented to the hero of the hour. Knowing the deep aversion which some men have to letting one hand know what the other does, one feels somewhat diffident about drawing attention to an act which was probably not intended to receive notoriety. It is true the sum paid to the young hero may not enable him to visit Saratoga, Orchard Beach or Canea, but it will give him a glorious trip around the mountain, a second to Hochelaga and the Sulphur Spring, a night at Solmer Park and a ride in the elevated cars to the mountain with a sandwich and a glass of buttermilk thrown in, and what more can any ambitious youngster desire.

Verily, charity not only covereth a multitude of sins, but it bringeth a lot of good things to the small boy; especially the small boy who can save a big train.

Some idea of how the rich grow richer may be realized from the following increases in value of stock belonging to the estate of the late Mr. Pullman, in the Car Co. bearing his name:—

The appreciation in the value of Pullman Palace Car stock has been so marked in recent months that shares have advanced in value from 200 to 210. Mr. Pullman left to his heirs 40,000 shares of this stock. At 100 this stock would be worth \$4,000,000 and at 210 it would have advanced to \$8,400,000. This it has done and the amount of appreciation in value is \$4,400,000. Mrs. Pullman, having chosen to accept her dower rights, receives one-third of this as well as of the other property in the estate. It is seen that the increase in her share of this one item is \$666,666.66.

The following startling item appeared recently in the local news of a Montreal evening paper:—

"Squads of natives were sent to-day to clean the streets and bury the horses whose remains have been lying in the streets for days and weeks. Other steps to improve the sanitary condition of the city are being taken."

There should be a rush of health-seeking tourists to our fair city after this. It seems to be the tail-end of a Santiago despatch which became detached from the body and started to do business on its own account.

PROVINCIAL EXAMINATIONS.

There will be a meeting of the examiners appointed by the Catholic Committee of the Council of Public Instruction to examine candidates for the office of school inspectors, at the Laval Normal school, on Wednesday, the 31st day of August, at nine o'clock in the forenoon. Any person who wishes to present himself at this examination must, before the 20th of August send a request for that purpose to Mr. Paul de Cazes, secretary of the Catholic Committee of Council of Public Instruction.

A French priest, who had usually a small congregation, was one day preaching at a church in his village, when the door being open, a gander and several geese came strolling up the middle aisle. The preacher, availing himself of the circumstance, observed that he could no longer find fault with the people of his district for non-attendance, because, though they did not come themselves, they sent their representatives.

Carelessness in girlhood causes the greatest suffering and unhappiness in girls should be looked after promptly and treatment given at once. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription promotes regularity of all feminine functions, makes strength and builds up a sturdy health with which to meet the trials to come. The Favorite Prescription is not a universal panacea. It is good but for one thing. It is directed solely at one set of organs.

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, a 1008 page medical work, profusely illustrated, will be sent free on receipt of 31 one-cent stamps to cover postage only. Address, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y.

THE PRESBYTERIANS OF ULSTER.

The Difference in Their Political Attitude Since the Days of the Rebellion.

Some Reasons Given for the Change—A Hope for the Future.

The New Ireland Review for July contains an interesting article bearing the above title, which, however little we may be disposed to agree with some of the conclusions enunciated by the writer, is worthy of attentive consideration if only because of the light which it casts upon the mental processes which induce many of those who love to style themselves 'the Loyalists of Ulster' to adopt an attitude in politics antagonistic to the majority of their fellow countrymen. It is right to say that the article in question, which is signed 'U,' has been written in reply to another which appeared in the May number of the Review, in which the question was asked: 'Why is the political attitude of Presbyterian Ulster so different in 1898 from what it was in 1798?' The writer with whose words we are now concerned admits that the inquiry just quoted is an interesting and important one, because of what he calls 'the undoubted fact' that 'in 1798 Presbyterian Ulster was "seething with rebellion and with anti-English feeling, and that in 1898 the Presbyterians of Ulster boast of their "loyalty and devotion to the Crown and Empire. It is also an undoubted fact that, whilst in 1798 the great mass of the farming and trading classes in Ulster were ready to fight for separation from England, the same classes in 1898 are equally ready to fight, if necessary, for the maintenance of the Union with England.' We shall probably be right in accepting the assertion as to the supposed martial proclivities of 'the great mass of the farming and trading classes in Ulster' with the proverbial grain of salt. Our own opinion is that about the last thing in the world the aforesaid 'classes' desire to be called upon to do is to fight, and that, short of the establishment of some form of conscription, which would tear them from their farms or their looms, they would learn with the utmost pique and unconcern of an alteration in the form of Government at Dublin Castle.

We do not, of course, mean to assert that if Protestant or Presbyterian Ulster were unjustly or harshly treated by an Irish and native Government it would not 'fight.' We are far from thinking so meanly of those whom we are glad to regard as fellow-countrymen, just as we are far from holding any such opinion concerning the Catholic people of Leinster, Munster, and Connaught, or Ulster itself. The oppressed have always resorted to them the sacred right of rebellion. What we do assert is that we totally disbelieve the theory that there is any purely sentimental attachment to the mere form of English rule in Ulster and that, on the contrary, its people of all creeds would accept the announcement of a change of Government with as much indifference as the majority of the people of England or of France would receive the intelligence that Parliament or the Chamber had revised the Constitution of either country. To express this opinion is merely to credit those referred to with the possession of common sense. The writer of the article in the 'New Ireland Review,' however, thinks differently, and he is, of course, entitled to hold and express his own opinion. Having said so much on this point, it is necessary to admit that 'U' quotes some views expressed by leading members of the Society of United Irishmen, on the subject of the Act of Union, which are, as he correctly remarks, but little known. Two of the declarations in question are to be found in the published correspondence of Archibald Hamilton Rowan. In January, 1799, he wrote from America to his father:—"I congratulate you upon the report which is spreading here, that a Union is intended. In that measure I see the downfall of one of the most corrupt assemblies, I believe, ever existed; and instead of an empty title, a source of industrious enterprise for the people, and the wreck of a feudal aristocracy." Almost at the same time he wrote to his wife, saying:—"Success to the Union if it is intended. You may have heard me declare the same opinion long since. It takes a feather out of the great man's cap; but it will, I think, put many a guinea into the poor man's pocket." Samuel Neilson wrote from his place of imprisonment in Fort George in almost similar strain, and commenting on these extracts, 'U' asks—"Can anyone doubt that the opinions and feelings thus strongly expressed by two of the most noted of the united leaders were widely spread amongst the malcontents of Ulster, and that after the rebellion the union was looked to as the chief hope for Ireland's future?" All that the quotations really prove, however, is that both Neilson and Rowan regarded the Union—as the majority of the Catholics of Ireland regarded it—as being likely to end the abominable system of tyranny and corruption which made men of the type of Clarendon and Castlereagh masters of the rights and liberties of the people.

If 'U' is correct in his conclusions, the true origin of the dislike or fear of Home Rule, which he believes exists amongst the Presbyterians of Ulster, is to be found in the vivid recollection still preserved of the injustices and disabilities under which the masses of the people laboured during the existence of the old Tory Irish Parliament. Of the time in question he says:—"Ulster farmers groaned under the petty, avaricious tyranny of the squireen, the agent, and the tithes proctor. The local magistracy was an engine for wreaking personal and political spite upon those who showed any trace of independence." It is gratifying to learn that the Unionism of Ulster Presbyterians is due to the memories here referred to,

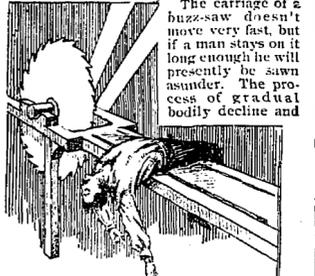
and not to any unintelligent fear of their Catholic brethren in other portions of the country. It must be obvious that a wisely guided native Government could in a very brief period, indeed, allay fears which are no more justifiable than would be the dread that a modern Irish Parliament would renew the ancient tribal customs of the country. Regarded from a critical and impartial standpoint, the article in the New Ireland Review can only be described as distinctly encouraging because of the light which it casts upon the essentially unreal and unsubstantial character of Ulster Presbyterian Unionism. The day will yet come when the good people, whose inherited timidities and prejudices 'U' so well describes, will acknowledge how baseless were the fears which they long entertained, and will be as ready to defend with their lives the restored national rights of their motherland as they are now to shrink from the discharge of the obligations which every principle of true patriotism imposes on them.—Dublin Nation.

CLERICAL RECRUITS IN FRANCE'S ARMY.

How the Service is Being Benefited by a Law Which Was Intended as a Blow at the Church.

[Catholic Standard and Times.] In France there is a law which compels all men to serve at least one year in the army. There are no exemptions under this law. Even the young theological student preparing for the sacred duties of the priesthood must, when the time comes, drop his studies and leave the seminary for the barracks. Efforts have been made to exempt students of this class, but without avail. In the Cathedral at New Orleans the other day Archbishop Chapelle ordained a young French student who had served his year in the barracks at Rennes. Rev. Alexander M. Barbier is his name. Father Barbier was born July 18, 1873, at Ile-et-Vilaine, Brittany, France. He made his college studies at the 'Little Seminary' of Saint Meen, in Brittany. In 1891 he determined to consecrate his life to God in the holy priesthood, and entered the 'Great Seminary' at Rennes, where he remained until 1893, during which time he completed his studies in philosophy. In the beginning of 1893, having become of age, he went into barracks at Rennes in compliance with the law of France which compels all men to serve at least one year in the army. Father Barbier became a member of the Forty first Regiment of French Infantry. It was hard for him to have this interruption in his preparation for the ministry, but he made the best of it, so many another young priest has done; far from lessening his desire to enter the priesthood it only served to increase his ardor, and at the end of a year of service, during which he won the esteem of all his officers by his ability and cheerful compliance with duty, he returned to the 'Great Seminary' at Rennes, to take up his studies of theology.

Speaking of the law which compels even young men who contemplate holy orders to break their studies to serve in the army, Father Barbier says that instead of being a source of loss of vocation, it is proving, on the contrary, the great leavening force in the French army. One or two brave, zealous young men in barracks are gradually, by their example and practice, bringing other boys who are inclined to be wayward and carried away by the dissipation of army life back to a sense of duty. Thus hundreds of the French soldiery are leading more earnest and truly moral lives; instead of going off to dances and parties and gambling houses of a Sunday they are keeping the day holy, attending church regularly and otherwise testifying their faith in God. A corresponding example of perfect discipline, obedience and devotion to duty is observed in other things, and French officers are feeling in their camps the splendid effects of a civil law which was intended as a direct blow to the Church. The French army is being leavened by these clerical recruits.



The carriage of a buzz-saw doesn't move very fast, but if a man stays on it long enough he will presently be sawn asunder. The process of gradual bodily decline and loss of energy which leads finally to consumption is not always very rapid, but if it isn't stopped it will presently begin to saw its way into the most vital part of the body, the lungs. There would be very little consumption if every family would keep Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery in the house, and use it whenever feeling "out of sorts." It keeps the entire body in such a high condition of health and forcefulness that wasting diseases have no chance to get a foot-hold. A teaspoonful or two before meals, in a little water, gives the digestive organism power to assimilate the blood-making, nerve-toning, strength-building properties of the food. It enables the liver and excretory system to clear the circulation of bilious poisons and remove all waste matter from the body. It replaces worn-out tissue with hard muscular flesh, and changes weakness and debility into active power and nerve force. The originator of this great "Discovery," R. V. Pierce, M. D., is chief consulting physician to the great Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute of Buffalo, N. Y., at the head of a staff of nearly a score of eminent associate physicians and surgeons. He has acquired, in his over thirty years of active practice, a reputation second to no living physician in the treatment of obstinate, chronic diseases. His prescriptions must not be confounded with the numerous "boon remedies," "extracts," "compounds" and "sarsaparillas," which a profit-seeking druggist is often ready to urge as a substitute. Dr. Pierce's medicines are the product of wide experience and deep study. Any one may consult him by mail free of charge.

FOR SALE FOR THE MILLION. Kindling \$2.00; Cut Maple \$2.50; Tamarac \$1.75; Mill blocks, stove lengths, \$1.50. J. C. McDIARMID, Richmond Square, Phone 8353.

SOME FEATURES OF THE WAR.

The Arbitrary Action of Congress in Plunging the Country into War

WITHOUT CONSULTING THE ELECTORATE.

The Methods in Making Appointments in Cuba—The Curiosity to See the Spanish Admiral After the Humiliating Defeat of His Forces.

The Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times, in an article entitled 'The War and whether it is leading us,' says:—

There is one element in the present situation which few seem to take into account, yet the importance of which cannot possibly be magnified. We refer to the absolute ignoring of the will of the people at large in the question of war or peace. No greater anomaly could well be imagined than that of a nation where the voice of the people is the sovereign authority being plunged into war on the sole responsibility of a majority in Congress. Congress, no doubt, according to the Constitution, is the sole authority in the making of peace and war, but then Congress is, nominally, the instrument and not the upholder of the electoral body. It is a fact which none can deny or overlook that there was no thought of a war when the last elections were being held, and no such issue was before the country. The people, therefore, have had no opportunity of pronouncing on the question of the most vital moment to them; nor have their wishes been consulted in the slightest degree since the war was declared. It seemed to be enough for them, according to their legislative, to be told to go forth and fight and pay the bill besides. We believe such a cavalier proceeding to be inimical to the public interest and totally at variance with the principles of our system. It is exactly what an autocrat like the Russian Czar does, and yet we are told we enjoy the benefit of democratic rule. We are among those who believe that the citizens of the United States should be consulted as to the ends and objects and limitation of all wars, and we do not perceive by what reason that can be logically defended they should be cheated out of their legitimate privilege. If the jingo handful who are getting the upper hand in this country are allowed to have their way, we shall be landed in a vortex of troubles at home and abroad, very quickly, as a result of ignoring the people's will.

Military Appointments.

The Washington correspondent of the Catholic Columbian, in referring to appointments in the American army, says:—

In all wars, political management, I will not say trickery, plays a conspicuous part. It is said that the Commanding General in Cuba owes his place to Washington influence and that he is not wholly competent to perform his task chiefly because of age and bulk. How this is I do not know, but it is also stated that after playing fast and loose with General Miles, this eminent soldier has been called upon to do at a late day what he should have been commissioned to perform much earlier. I hope indeed that he may not be compelled to undertake sanguinary operations, and that peace may not be distant; but he can bring order out of chaos, and transform many uncanny features of the campaign. If peace should be soon declared, a strange thing will occur. The war will have terminated without the active participation of Southern soldiers in the mass. They were eager to go to the field, but, notwithstanding their presumed superior ability to fight and march in a hot country, Eastern and Western men were selected for that duty along with the regular army. It may be that Northern troops were better equipped and so more available for instant work, but there exists some surprise that Fitzhugh Lee and his compatriots in arms, from the South, have been apparently ignored. It will be curious to observe the by-play of the politicians and financiers, as the war progresses, and when it shall have come to a conclusion. We may rid the Western continent of Spain, but the machinations of 'statesmen' and money changers will be harder to baffle or defeat. Imperialism, bond deals and party intrigue will continue to plague us. Even Senator Stewart, who wanted Cuban recognition, on a different plan, however, than that of the Administration, and who voted for Hawaiian annexation, admits that if the war shall end in a victory for plutocracy, it will be 'an unmitigated curse.'

The Cuban Problem.

Under the caption, "The Problem in Cuba," the Boston Republic says:

The real character of the Cuban insurgents is shown in their absurd claim that the city of Santiago should be turned over to them as soon as captured by the American forces. They even went so far as to hoist a Cuban flag over a small fort which they were temporarily occupying after the surrender. They had already selected the man who was to act as governor of the captured territory. They expected or professed to expect that the American Government would cheerfully spend \$1,000,000 a day in fighting Spain and then make a present of the fruits of their victory to Gomez and Garcia and their horde of bushwhackers. But they have found their mistake, and information may be of some value to them. They have been made to realize that they must show capacity for civil administration and must curb their propensities to thieving and murder before they can be entrusted with the responsibilities of government.

Meanwhile, as these facts and conditions come to light, the people are likely to ask why they are at war with Spain. We made a solemn pledge as a nation that our purpose was not to seize or acquire territory. We declared that we

took up arms in behalf of humanity and civilization. But neither humanity nor civilization will be promoted or fostered by setting up the Cuban nomads and land pirates as the responsible rulers of the island. Indeed, the condition of the people under their sway would be worse, if possible, than that which we have been trying to relieve. Now that we are in the midst of the fight with Spain, and that we are bound to prosecute the war to a successful and honorable termination, it may be just as well to let the Cubans understand that pillage and butchery of the victims of defeat do not constitute the fundamental elements of Christian statesmanship, and that the new government of Cuba must be founded upon a basis of civilization and humanity, and not upon chapparral barbarism.

Vulgar Curiosity.

[Catholic Witness, Detroit.] While we are patting ourselves on the back and telling each other what a fine set of fellows we all are, and how, under the sun, there is no nation equal to us, it is a little humiliating to read about the vulgar curiosity that carried so many people to Annapolis last Sunday in the hope of catching sight of the Spanish admiral who was there a prisoner. The instincts of a kindly nature, not to speak of politeness or education, would tell these people that nothing could be so bitter or so humiliating to the admiral as thus in his misfortune to be made the object of vulgar gaze. It has been the custom of savages to further humiliate a fallen enemy, but such conduct has never found favor in civilized nations. So it would seem that some of these preachers who are following to the skies about the grand destiny of this nation to reform the whole world, could do not a little good if they came down from their hobby horses and talked and instructed their people in the common decencies and habits of a Christian life.

THE EARL OF MINTO

Has Been Appointed to Succeed Lord Aberdeen.

London July 26.—The Earl of Minto has been appointed Governor General of Canada, in succession to the Earl of Aberdeen.

Gilbert John Elliot-Murray-Kesteven, Earl of Minto and Viscount Melgund (C. K. 1813), Baron Minto (Great Britain, 1797), a baronet of Scotland (1797), wears the volunteer officer's decoration; was for a time lieutenant in the Scots Guards, and served in Afghanistan, Egypt, Canada, etc. He is a son of the 3rd earl, was born July 2, 1845, and succeeded to the title in 1891. He married, in 1883, Mary Caroline, daughter of Gen. Hon. Charles Grey, and has two sons and three daughters, Lady Ellen Nina Evelyn Sibell, born 1881; Lady Ruby Florence Mary, born 1883; Lady Violet Mary, born 1889; Victor Gilbert Lariston Garnet, Viscount Melgund (heir), born 1891; and Gavin William Esmond, born 1895.

The Earl of Minto, as Lord Melgund, served as military secretary to Lord Lansdowne, when that statesman was governor general of Canada, and was with Gen. Middleton in the operations against Riel in 1885, holding the rank of lieutenant-colonel in the Canadian militia. He commands the South of Scotland volunteers with the rank of colonel.

The family seats are Minto House, Hawick, Roxburghshire, and Melgund, Fife, the London residence being 6 Audley square, W.

The family name is generally given as Eliot, the two other surnames being conventionally dropped.

CATHOLIC BENEVOLENT LEGION.

At the recent annual convention of the State Council of the Catholic Benevolent Legion, held at Saratoga, the annual report of President Hutchinson showed that seven new councils were instituted during the year, including the East New York of the Borough of Queens and Manhattan of Morris Park, L. I. Those mentioned are spoken of as making rapid progress. The increase of membership in the councils of the State amounts to 600, making the total Empire State membership 25,200, a gain of a little more than 2 per cent.

The report of State Treasurer James J. Reid showed that the disbursements during the year were \$19,085.10, and the receipts, \$22,906.63. The convention will meet next year at Newburg. The following officers were elected: President, R. J. Hutchinson, New York city; vice-president, John Hackett, Syracuse; secretary, L. B. Long, New York city; treasurer, J. J. Reid, New York city; spiritual adviser, Rev. John J. Roche, New York city; orator, G. M. Mullen, New York city; marshal, A. M. Wood, Brooklyn; guard, T. A. Fitzpatrick, Brooklyn.

Scott's Emulsion is not a "baby food," but is a most excellent food for babies who are not well nourished.

A part of a teaspoonful mixed in milk and given every three or four hours, will give the most happy results.

The cod-liver oil with the hypophosphites added, as in this palatable emulsion, not only to feeds the child, but also regulates its digestive functions.

Ask your doctor about this.