

fact that three-fourths of the cases of sporadic infantile cholera are initiated by carelessness in the selection of the food given to bottle-fed infants. If from the first of June to the first of October every mother would see to it that her infant was fed with easily digested and in every respect suitable food for hot weather, we believe we should have to record at the close of this much dreaded summer a decrease instead of an increase in infant mortality.

Dr. H. Von Ziemssen, writing on *Sporadic Cholera*, in Vol. vii. of the *Cyclopedia of Medicine*, says:—"Regulation of the diet constitutes in fact the principal method of treatment of sporadic cholera and particularly cholera infantum. When mothers' milk is insufficient Liebig's Food or Nestle's Lacteous Farina are *alone to be recommended*. The latter is *especially* commendable because the physiological relations of the infantile digestive organs, particularly the lack of notable salivary and pancreatic secretions are taken into account in this fabrication, the starch contained in it having been transformed into dextrine." It should also be borne in mind that infant foods are also well adapted to the nourishment of invalids of all ages.

#### RAREFIED AIR IN PHTHISIS.

Experiments have been made from time to time in order to determine the effects of rarefied air upon respiration. The results generally show that an elevation sufficiently great to cause a diminution of the barometric pressure to one-third of its normal value is necessary to produce the desired effect upon the respiration, viz: to render it more frequent and profound. Experiments have been made with dogs by subjecting them to great variation of air pressure; but no change in the respiration was observed until a height was reached which showed considerable rarefaction of the air. It would thus seem that the influence of mountain air on the respiratory apparatus, which some physicians covet for their consumptive patients, is not very decided until heights of at least 5,000 or 6,000 feet are reached. An interesting result obtained by these experiments was that at very low pressures (about ten inches of mercury) the ultimate effect was a diminished nutrition of the tissues.

The results are of value in determining the curative properties of mountain air upon weak and

diseased lungs. But they are far from conclusive. Similar experiments were made in 1880 by Dr. Marcet with himself and a scientific companion at Courmayeur (3,945 feet) and the Col du Géant (11,030 feet high). In ascending from Yvoire to Courmayeur—a vertical distance of only 2,715 feet—the relative atmospheric humidity was lowered by 31 per cent. for the higher station, and the mean weight of the carbonic acid expired by the two experimenters was found to be in excess at the higher station over the lower by more than 8 per cent. This clearly shows the influence of even moderate altitude above sea level, coupled with increased atmospheric dryness, towards promoting combustion in the human body. At the high station of the Col du Géant, over 11,000 feet, the rate of breathing was accelerated by more than 39 per cent. in Dr. Marcet's case, and over 25 per cent. in his companion's. Although in the rarefied air of high levels the body makes more carbonic acid, it exhales it much more rapidly than under the lower pressure of the plains, and the augmented activity of the respiratory organs necessitated by breathing rarefied air is in many cases the chief curative agency of mountain districts.

ONTARIO MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.—The Association is to be congratulated on the large number of papers promised for the meeting in London on the 3rd and 4th inst. In fact it will scarcely be possible to get through with them in two days. In addition to the special subjects in medicine, surgery and obstetrics referred to in our last issue, the following papers are announced: Drs. Buck—"Sanity;" Bray—"Cæsarian Section;" Edwards—"Placenta Previa;" Beemer—"Brain Exhaustion;" Waugh—"Infantile Paralysis;" Fraser—"Continued Fevers;" Penwarden—"——"; Graham—"Mitral Stenosis;" Groves—"Urinary Calculi;" Arnott—"Diet in Disease;" Campbell—"Locomotor Ataxia;" Ovens—"Trifacial Neuralgia;" McKechnie—"Pericarditis;" McLay—"Cystitis;" Harrison—"Foreign Bodies in Larynx;" Aylesworth—"——"; Moorhouse—"The Germ Theory with specimens;" Worthington—"Lingual Neuralgia;" Duncan—"Warburg's Tincture in Canadian Practice;" Murray—"Uterine Hemorrhage after Abortion;" White—"Straight Splint in Treatment of Fractured Elbow of Childhood;"