

another, that it is evident that much which has for years been taught must be unlearned, or rather admitted to be untrue, before we can expect to make any intelligent advance in this most difficult subject."—*Rotch*.

In the decade which has elapsed since the above statement appeared (Cf. "Keating's *Cyclopædia of the Diseases of Children*," Vol. 1, 270) no subject has received greater attention at the hands of the profession, in the way of scientific study and clinical experiment, than has that of "infant feeding," whose generous bibliography is unequalled by that of any other branch of medicine; and, while important advances have been made in our knowledge of the composition and preparation of substitute foods, especially from a chemical and bacteriological standpoint, yet a critical review of recent text-books and magazine articles reveals the fact that the same diversity of opinion, regarding details in the methods of artificial feeding, exists to-day among specialists as well as the rank and file of the profession, as that which was complained of by Prof. Rotch ten years ago; therefore, we feel justified in heading our article with the above-quoted expression of this author's pessimistic views. In other words, we believe now as did he then, that much which has been taught and accepted as truth (even during the past ten years) "must be unlearned, or rather admitted to be untrue," ere we shall come to an intelligent understanding and agreement upon this important subject.

*Concurrence of Opinions.*—It is agreed that, inasmuch as breast milk is the child's natural food, it should serve as the standard by which to judge artificial foods; and it is the generally accepted opinion, that, if for any sufficient reason the babe cannot be nursed, the most practical substitute food is cow's milk. The only mooted question is—how shall it be prescribed? Regarding this point, there is great discordance of views; but we believe it is now admitted by pediatric specialists and by every general practitioner of experience that the milk should be diluted or modified so as to correspond as nearly as possible with mother's milk in the proportion and amount of its chief constituent parts—i. e., its proteids, fat and sugar. The analysis of breast milk shows that these three essential ingredients are present in the following approximate proportion: proteids 2, fat 4, sugar 7; while in cow's milk they are found as follows: proteids 4, fat 4, sugar  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .