

This class of children are generally ruled by a domineering old woman they call "nurse," displaying a maximum of "tall talk," with a minimum of what she delights to call "common sense" (and very common indeed it proves to be). The medical man must cultivate a habit of attacking such a stronghold of prejudice and conceit by a series of carefully-planned flank movements, in such a way that the nursery magnate may be drawn, against her own convictions, into a pliable frame of mind, sufficient to enable the medical man's physic and regimen to stand a chance of being attended to.

To attempt to invade the sanctum of a nursery where the lady-paramount is cajoled into the idea that "nurse is a treasure" and prefers rather to foster the notion than to care to have her eyes opened to the actual state of reigning ignorance, requires all the practical art of the medical man gradually to overcome and remedy.

Undoubtedly the ailments under which children for the most part suffer belong to the preventible class. They are due sometimes to overfeeding; very often to neglect, especially of the calls of nature; and very much to general bad management. With this view, it may be well to presume that the best and most approved mode of treatment for habitual torpidity of the bowels is not medicine, but an enema of soap and water, with occasionally a little castor or olive oil added to the injection. If this do not succeed, and the child's appetite begins to fail, it is an indication for administering medicine by the mouth.

Fortunately, the art of the apothecary comes in to our aid, and we are now enabled to give the most nauseous of drugs—castor oil—absolutely free from taste and smell, while it retains the aperient properties of ordinary castor oil. Messrs. Allan and Hanburys themselves advise that it should be shaken up with three or four times its bulk of hot milk. The viscosity of the oil is thus avoided, and the emulsion produced is scarcely distinguishable from warm rich milk.

If it be desirable to administer an aperient that will act more directly on the liver, and to avoid the unpleasant effects which often arise after taking "oil," the compound rhubarb pill will be found a serviceable aperient. Of course, some new method for its administration will be desired, which I shall now detail. Either an ordinary five-grain pill may be cut up, and a portion of it broken in small pieces may be buried in a chocolate-cream, which the youngest child will take with avidity; or, for children of, say, five years and upwards, I have given one-half and one-fourth of a grain of this pill, thinly coated. Half-a-dozen or so may be taken, like "hundreds and thousands," and washed down with milk and water.

The medicated fruit lozenges are very useful, *e. g.*, tamar indien and laxora lozenges. Podophyllin is probably one of the active ingredients in these lozenges. Only a small portion of a lozenge must be given to a child. The objection found with these is that they sometimes "gripe" the little patient.

Next to these, perhaps, in efficiency and palatability is the compound liquorice powder containing senna powder. About a teaspoonful stirred up with warm milk may be taken at bedtime, and a little chloric ether added (about ten to twenty drops). Very few children will object to take fluid magnesia or the calcined magnesia, especially if flavored with the syrup of mulberry or orange.

I have succeeded in masking the taste of many powders by the addition of powdered "rose" lozenges. I very seldom prescribe Gregory's powder, on account of its nauseous character and bulk. I prefer to combine the rhubarb with bicarbonate of soda, about five grains of each. This makes a much more miscible and manageable powder. Given in jam, honey or golden syrup, the taste is altogether covered.

Children will sometimes take the "baume de vie," or decoction of aloes, without objecting much. A little of this rubbed into the stomach of infants will suffice sometimes to procure an action of the bowels. The extract of liquorice may be added to the decoction until the bitter taste is sufficiently masked. Children have not really such an aversion to it, for I have known them to lick off the aloes from their fingers when put on to prevent them from sucking them. Powdered aloes, about half a teaspoonful, may be given mixed with brown sugar. The electuary of senna is taken without difficulty by some children, also the syrup of senna and the infusion with prunes. The effervescent purgative lemonade is a very agreeable drink, as also half a seidlitz powder flavored with lemon juice.

Turning now to febrifuge mixtures, there is not much need of flavoring to mask the flavor of these. Sweet nitre, acetate of ammonia, spirits of chloroform, are all pleasant drugs to take. The nitrate and chlorate of potash are rather saltish, but the sal prunelle and Wyeth's compressed tablets will be taken by the bigger children without much protest. The syrups of orange, lemon, and mulberry will come in as agreeable and cooling adjuncts. Cough-mixtures can generally be made very pleasant by the addition of syrup of squills of tolu, etc.

As regards tonics, some considerable skill will be necessary efficiently to cover the bitter flavor. Children will take the saccharated carbonate of iron very well, and also steel wine; but if we attempt to give the bitter infusions, there is sure to be rebellion in the nursery. Quinine—one of the most valuable medicines for children—can be given without difficulty, either in the form of pill or, which I prefer, dissolved in syrup of orange, without the addition of any water. This effectually covers the flavor. Quinine wine is useful for the elder children.

Chemical food is, of course, taken with relish, and if recently made is a serviceable tonic; but the phosphates, from their insolubility, throw down very much. The compound solution of the hypophosphites, in ten-minim doses, and the hypophos-