

The last experiment with vaccinine and potash shows that the infecting property of lymph may be quickly destroyed by mixture with an excess of potash.

The second proves that a moderate quantity of potash mixed with lymph does not soon annul its infecting powers.

The third shows that if the conditions of the second are prolonged for ten days, the lymph is made non-infective. From these results, it may be justly concluded, that variolous and other zymotic poisons would, in the same circumstances, be affected similarly to the lymph, also that the other alkalis would act on lymph similarly to the potash, and in like manner on the other zymotica.—*Glasgow Med. Jour.* July, 1875.

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### THE ALIMENTATION OF INFANTS.

A paper read by Dr. Dawson at one of the New York Medical Societies (*New York Med. Record*, June 5), contains some very useful remarks upon this important subject. He commenced by exhibiting the intestinal canal taken from a child seven months old, in a state of extreme softening, induced by gastro-intestinal irritation, which had been going on for four months. After alluding to the fact that a fourth of the children born die before they attain their fifth year, he stated his conviction that *faulty alimentation is the great cause which induces the gastro-intestinal irritation which carries off the bulk of them.* The composition of the mother's milk, as well as the condition of the digestive apparatus, show how well these are adapted for each other; for, at first there is no secretion from the glands capable of digesting the starchy elements of food, while the size of the liver, and the size and shape of the intestinal tube, show that food is only to be retained for a short time, and, therefore, should be of quick and easy digestion;—also showing that *fluid*, not solid, animal, nor vegetable, food is that which is suitable for the infant. If these indications be neglected, food is very liable to give rise to vomiting, gastro-intestinal catarrh, and other disorders which ultimately prove fatal.

It is, perhaps, difficult to decide on the quantity of milk proper for an infant; but, at all events, the child should not be induced to take more than sufficient to satisfy its appetite, after which it should at once be removed from the breast. Simple as this rule is, it is constantly neglected, every cry of the child being thought to denote hunger, and to call for a