

Progress of Medical Science.

ON THE VALUE OF KOUMISS IN THE TREATMENT OF NAUSEA, VOMITING AND INABILITY TO RETAIN OTHER FOOD IN THE STOMACH.

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The author selected ten remarkable cases on this subject that had come under his own observation, five cases successfully treated with koumiss by other medical practitioners, whose names are given below.

The first case described by Dr. Jagielski was a patient of Mr. Wallis Mason and Mr. B. Floyer, a very anæmic lady, who was confined with twins at full term. General paralysis followed, her prostration had become extreme in six days after the confinement in consequence of her inability to retain any food on her stomach; and when seemingly dying the koumiss was given to her in small quantities at frequent intervals. All nausea and vomiting had disappeared during the exclusive treatment with koumiss, which proved, besides to nourish the patient alone sufficiently, to increase her strength and bodily weight in a very short time. The three medical attendants were firmly convinced that in this case life was saved by the koumiss.

2. A case of pregnancy with hæmoptysis, subsequent vomiting, and inability to retain anything on the stomach, in which the treatment with koumiss allayed the vomiting speedily, and enabled the patient to come safely over her confinement, her health remaining very good afterwards.

3. Acute attack of chronic bronchitis, with excavations in both lungs, &c., in a gentleman 78 years old, whose hapless condition on the sixth day of his severe illness caused Dr. Jagielski to give him the sparkling koumiss, under the influence of which the constant vomiting was readily overcome, and the rapidly declining strength renewed. His excessive expectoration diminished, his sleep returned, and his relative health was soon restored.

4. A case of most obstinate gastric catarrh, with all the appearance of a carcinoma pylori, complicated by very distressing vomiting and consecutive exhaustion, which resisted all drug treatment, and all varieties of dietetic food, soon yielding to the exclusive use of koumiss.

5. A case of uninterrupted hæmoptysis during nine weeks, with vomiting and inability to keep down any food, in which the styptic treatment was continued all the time with no good results. The koumiss treatment was followed by rapid improvement and complete recovery.

6. A case of pleura-pneumonia dextra followed by intractable vomiting and inability to retain food in the stomach, treated successfully

by the koumiss. Equally favorable results, by the sole use of sparkling koumiss, were quoted by Dr. Jagielski in the following cases:

7. A lady, 66 years old, with pleuritis exudative dextra, a long sufferer from chronic bronchitis, with very severe vomiting, and scarcely any food in the stomach for ten days.

8. A case of old mitral incompetency, with anasarca and gastric catarrh, with constant vomiting.

9 and 10. Two cases of diabetes mellitus. Almost in a dying state from inability to retain food on the stomach and consecutive irritation.

Further, Dr. Myrtle's, of Harrogate, four cases described in the *Lancet* of December 12th, 1874, one of marasmus in the adult, with unchecked vomiting—successful; one of pyæmia, with sickness and unchecked vomiting—successful; one of phthisis (advanced) with ulceration of mucous membrane, diarrhœa and hectic—successful; one of rheumatic fever, with gastric irritability of a most formidable nature—successful; and Mr. Carter Wigg's case, of Southminster, Essex [see the *Lancet* of January 9th, 1875], of heart disease and albuminuria, with constant sickness, retching, and vomiting, likewise successfully treated with koumiss.

In concluding, Dr. Jagielski recommended the koumiss treatment as harmless at the worst, and the more rational means with which to commence the early and primary treatment of disease for which it is suitable.—*Dublin Med. Press*, April 10, '78.

DIARRHŒA OF INFANTS.

Dr. René Blanche (*Bull. Gén. de Thérap.—Phil. Med. Times*) urges that whenever diarrhœa occurs in young infants it should be checked immediately and not allowed to make headway. The medicine he employs is the same in every case, though modified somewhat according to the circumstances. In order to prepare for this, diminution of the ordinary diet is directed, and appropriate enemata after each passage, with cataplasms to the abdomen. Then every morning a small teaspoonful of an emulsion made of equal parts of ol. ricini and syrup acaciæ is given and repeated every day for three, four or five days. For infants under six months ʒj ol. ricini is enough; from six months to two years, ʒss to ʒi. If after a day or two the stools improve, the dose is maintained, but if they are still fetid and glairy an equal dose may be given in the evening as well as in the morning. When the passages are very frequent, one to three drops of laudanum may be added in the course of twenty-four hours. Blanche thinks enemata very important. A large enema of infusion of chamomile may be given at the outset, followed by a smaller one of starch, twenty minutes later.