

TREATMENT OF ACUTE BOWEL INFECTION OF INFANTS.

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In the treatment of the acute bowel infections of infants and children three cardinal requirements must be always kept in sight: (1) Clearance and asepsis of the bowels; (2) provide a grade of circulation of the blood and fluids of the body as near as possible to the normal status; (3) a rational food supply. If the infant is breast-fed, the mother should be reinstated to tolerable functional ability of her digestive, secretory and excretory organs; wifely duties or taxes should be reduced to the minimum; social demands must be curtailed, and domestic felicity should prevail.

With the food of the child at the proper standard, the attention to the child's condition will have better results. If the child has been fed in part with cow's milk, the interstices of the walls of the bowels, including the villi, are clogged with hybrid, but mostly with the heterologous protein of cow's milk; the clearing out process must be of such quality as to not only clear the lumen of the bowel of its fermenting contents, but to aid in the dissipation of clogged protein in the walls; in the interval give only mother's milk, if feasible, and create aseptic conditions with one grain hourly doses of sulphocarbolate of lime; if the bowel motions are too frequent, add one grain of zinc sulphocarbolate to every dose of the lime salt. In ordinary cases, when proper conditions of the bowels have been instituted, little sedative medicine will be required.

With exclusively bottle-fed infants, the problem is changed; the absorption of the intake of this heterologous food is not a true index of resulting nutrition therefrom; we have learned that the rhythmic movements of the infant's stomach always prevents the curding of cow's milk in it, but passes it on in a flocculent or semi-dissolved state, to be acted on by the trypsin ferment, the thoroughness of the fragmentation of the protein of the milk, by the trypsin, much determining the quality of the protein to be obtained after its further fragmentation by the ferment, erepsin of the intestines, which puts on the finishing touches to protein digestion; true, normal digestion reverts the heterologous protein of ingestion to simpler units, which by a reversion of process, by the erepsin, from tearing down to building up, under proper environment, succeeds in the reconstruction to homologous, nutritive pabulum.