

CONSTIPATION IN BABIES.—For constipation occurring in babies during the first year, and not relieved by regulation of the diet, Carron de la Carrière recommends light massage of the abdomen with the palm of the hand well oiled. The movement should be made in a circle about umbilicus, pressure being light, and exerted especially in the right iliac region. Each sitting should occupy not more than ten minutes, and should take place in the morning. For babies after the first year, massage may be made with the finger-tips over the course of the large intestine from the right to left.—*Practitioner*.

ARTIFICIAL OYSTERS.—The municipal authorities of Paris are just now engaged in the suppression of an altogether novel form of food adulteration, which is assuming phenomenal proportions, according to the *New York Tribune*. Real oysters are expensive in Paris; and so, with the object of suiting slender purses, artificial oysters on the half-shell have been invented, which are sold at twenty cents a dozen, and they are so cleverly made, and look so nice and fresh, that, once lemon juice or vinegar has been added, they cannot be distinguished from the real article, especially when white wine is taken in connection therewith. The only genuine thing about these oysters is the shell, the manufacturers buying second-hand shells at a small cost, and fastening the spurious oyster in place with a tasteless paste. The municipal laboratory has not yet proclaimed the ingredients of which these bogus oysters are composed, but has announced that they are of a harmful character.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Jour.*

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF CASTS AND ALBUMINURIA.—At a recent discussion in New York Academy of Medicine on albuminuria, Dr. William Henry Porter asserted that hyaline casts were not uncommonly found in the urine of persons who were in the habit of eating too much, and in whom there was a tendency to the over-production of uric acid. Under such circumstance the presence of hyaline casts in the urine meant little more than that an isomeric albumin had been excreted through the renal cells and had been precipitated by the uric acid. If however, there was also epithelial or nucleated casts, there was good reason to believe that the kidneys were positively diseased. The same observer bases his prognosis, in cases of albuminuria, largely on the habits and methods of eating of the individual. Thus, if the person is an animal-feeder, he is inclined to give a favorable prognosis, but if the patient is largely a vegetarian, or indulges freely in fruits, his experience leads him to give a much graver prognosis.—*Phil. Med. Jour.*