

varying forms, and to point out the indications of remedial interference. It is my purpose to deal only with essential and reflex diarrhœas, so that the questions of dysentery, cholera, etc., need not cumber the present discussion.

*Etiology.*—A man of adult years complains to us of a diarrhœa and its concomitant symptoms. What shall we give him? Naturally, the first question demanding solution is, upon what condition does the diarrhœa depend? What has caused it? A diarrhœa results from increased peristaltic action of the intestines, or from excessive secretion, or from the two combined. The exciting causes of these phenomena, in relation to the subject in hand, and which will apply to the majority of ordinary cases, are—1. Intestinal irritation by improper or unripe food and fruit, impure water and constipation. 2. Changes of temperature, bad air, anti-hygienic conditions, fatigue and malarial influences. 3. Obstruction of the portal circulation. 4. Excessive mental excitement. There are, of course, *vicarious* diarrhœas, the diarrhœas of typhoid fever, of phthisis, cancer, Hodgkin's disease, etc., but these are intercurrent phenomena, the local manifestations of constitutional disturbance, and are to be met in the general treatment of the primary lesion. In general summer practice it will be found that nearly all of the cases that come to us for treatment will depend upon some one of the foregoing exciting causes. It is essential that the diagnosis should be an accurate one, to insure successful treatment.

*Diagnosis.*—The history of the case will first arrest attention. The social condition of the patient and his hygienic surroundings. The duration of the disease. The nature of ingesta. The length of time between the last meal and the first symptoms of the attack. The nature of the last meal. The character of the discharges. The co-existence of nausea. The presence of headache, increased upon movement of the head. The condition of the tongue. The daily occupation of the patient. His condition in reference to insomnia. The distinction between the various forms may be confirmed from the symptomatology.

*Symptoms.*—1. Unripe or improper food; impure water; constipation, acting as intestinal irritants. When an adult has