

called to see an infant under six months suffering from diarrhoea, is, "How often does the child nurse?" and frequently find it has no regularity of nursing, sometimes nursing as often as every half-hour. By establishing regularity of nursing, the diarrhoea is often cured. A child under four months, as the rule, will have two, sometimes three evacuations in twenty-four hours. This number is within the range of health. You will see many cases of diarrhoea with very little constitutional disturbance, but frequency of movements and the appearance of the movements not particularly unhealthy. Bismuth. subnitrat., three grains every two or three hours, will cure such cases.

PRETERNATURAL ACIDITY.

Some infants have a tendency to preternatural acidity in the digestive organs. The diarrhoea that occurs in such cases is accompanied with considerable pain, the passage of small, cheesy-looking masses with the stools, the odor sour, and sometimes even offensive, the reaction decidedly acid. Such children may be given, with good effect, a teaspoonful of lime-water three times a day. Give it in two teaspoonfuls of milk. Chalk may be given. The mist. cretæ of the Pharmacopœia is a good preparation to give. It contains, besides the chalk, gum arabic, glycerine, and cinnamon, all of them good in this form of diarrhoea. Sometimes it is well to give a laxative as some of these cheesy masses may have collected in the intestines and may be acting as an irritant. The indication is to remove them. I have found the following prescription a better one to give than the traditional castor-oil:

R. Pulv. rhei rad..... gr. xv.
Sodæ bicarb..... gr. xxv.
Aq. menth. pip..... ℥ ij.

M. Sig. ʒj. as laxative to a child from one to four months old.

In this prescription we get the laxative effects of rhubarb with its so-called secondary astringent effects, the alkali, and the sedative, and antiseptic effects of the peppermint.

In any case of diarrhoea, where there is reason to believe there is any irritant in the intestines, the treatment may be commenced by giving a laxative to remove it.

DENTITION AS A CAUSE OF DIARRHŒA.

Between the sixth and twenty-eighth month dentition plays a very important part in the production of diarrhoea. It might be called a nervous diarrhoea, for it is probably due to reflex nervous disturbances. If dentition is not directly responsible for many of these diarrhoeas, it is indirectly so by putting the system in a condition to be more susceptible to all these influences which do produce diarrhoea. In all cases where the gums are swollen, lance them. In any case where it is about time for the tooth to come through lance the gums over the tooth thoroughly and draw some blood. I believe the disturbance is often due to pressure of the tooth deeply in, and before it

shows much swelling on the surface. Lancing the gums never does harm. It is better to err on the side of lancing them when there may be no necessity, than to fail to lance when there might be necessity. I have often seen a child having from ten to twelve movements a day relieved entirely by lancing the gums, and with no other treatment. It is in these cases that the bromides prove so effectual. Give the following combination of a bromide with mucilage to a child between six months and a year; older children a larger dose:

R. Sodii bromid..... ʒ ss.
Mucilag. acaciæ,
Aque puræ, aa q. s. ad.... ℥ ij.
M. Sig. ʒj. q. ʒ h.

The bromide diminishes the reflex disturbance, and the mucilage is soothing to the irritated intestinal mucous membrane.

ERRORS IN DIET AS A CAUSE OF DIARRHŒA.

Another cause of diarrhœal troubles is the giving of all sorts of diet too early. There is a desire to make the child strong and grow more rapidly. Meat, vegetables, and farinaceous articles in abundance are given to children even eight or ten months old. A child under eight months ought to have no other diet than milk, and even up to two years, milk should be its main diet. Human milk is the best during the first year, or until weaning; but often from necessity the child is brought up on the bottle. During the first eight months cow's milk diluted one-fourth with barley-water makes the best diet. The ground or crushed barley should be boiled with water of sufficient quantity, so that when cold it is about as thick as thin cream. The milk should be given about blood-warm and a little sweetened. What place should condensed milk be given in the feeding of children? I should give it a place on the shelf at the grocers. I have tried the condensed milk with children thoroughly, and have seen it tried in the practice of others, and must protest against its use. Children fed on condensed milk, although they may thrive well apparently, yet when they fall ill show very little resisting power, and particularly when they fall ill of diarrhoea, they weaken very rapidly and the diarrhoea is apt to be obstinate. There are exceptional cases in which it may be used, and some cases in which it is desirable to use it for a short time. When bottle-fed children suffer from diarrhoea it is well to boil the milk and make the barley-water thinner and give more of it, say one-third barley-water to two-thirds boiled milk. I have found thoroughly cooked wheat flour an admirable food for children with diarrhoea. Have it prepared in this way: Put about two pounds of flour in a muslin bag, tie a string around the top of it, and suspend it in a kettle of water and boil it for five hours; then let it get cold. Take off the bag, cut off the outside dough and grate it. Thicken boiled milk with this to about the consistency of a thin gruel, or about thick enough for it to pass through the rubber nipple of a nursing-bottle. All