

encouragement when vexed by uncertainty.

As it contains an ample index, it will constitute an easy work of reference, and in its pages will be found some account of nearly every disease to which children are liable. It opens with an excellent chapter on the clinical examination of children, which should be read by every practitioner, young and old.

Speaking of the cry as a means of diagnosis one of the authors says, that from its peculiarity in one case he diagnosed earache, but his treatment gave no relief and "the constant scream set the mother half wild. At length the grandmother said, 'she thought the child wanted the breast,' and so it did. We are glad to see the authors disapprove of Tartarized Antimony as an emetic in croup, among young children, as we believe much harm has been done by its use. In the article on Thrush they take up the subject of food and feeding. Next to the mother's milk, they say, "we are practically driven to the use of cow's milk, which should be slightly acid or neutral, (to test paper) should contain at least, ten per cent. of cream, and have a specific gravity of 1029 at 60° F., that during the first month it should be diluted in the proportion of two parts water and one of milk, gradually increasing the strength, till at the age of one or one and a half years, it may be given pure." The quantity taken by a healthy child, during the first ten days after birth, is said to be a little over one pint in twenty-four hours, while in the second and third months it will often take two or three pints in the same time. The authors recommend feeding at regular intervals, say every two hours during the day, and twice at night, for the first month, but we think that where they are trained to feed every four hours, children do better than where the stomach is kept so constantly at work.

We entirely agree with the authors when they say "we do not think that any of the various feculent substances, so much vaunted and advertised for the use of the public, are of any value in the early months, as compared with milk. Milk must be the basis. It is the really important part of the nutriment."

They think that a little starchy matter with milk, does render it more digestible, probably by interposing between the particles of casein, and thus lessening the hardness of the curd.

They recommend very highly, an artificial food composed of a piece of gelatine two inches square, boiled in half a pint of water until it dissolves, adding four ounces of milk with a teaspoonful of arrowroot stirred in, a little loaf-sugar, and half an ounce of cream.

For children over a month old, the milk may be increased to one half or two thirds, and the cream to one or two ounces, but the gelatine and arrowroot need not be increased.

The temptation to enlarge our quotations is very great, but we must forbear. The book is well written and very comprehensive, an excellent work for both practitioner and teacher, and now that *Pathology* forms so important an item in the examinations of the Medical Council, this work will have a special value to the student.

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## Obituaries.

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### DEATH OF SIR J. Y. SIMPSON.

This eminent physician became ill about seven weeks ago, and was unable to finish his winter course of lectures. From the commencement of his illness those who knew his state best felt anxious about him. A few weeks ago he seemed to be getting better, but on Saturday week he became worse, and since then he steadily and rapidly sank, and died on Friday evening about eight o'clock, aged fifty-eight.

Sir J. Y. Simpson was born in Bathgate, Linlithgowshire, in 1811. He came to Edinburgh a poor and nearly friendless student, graduated in 1832, and became assistant to the late Dr. Thomson, professor of pathology in Edinburgh University. He applied for a situation as village surgeon at Merhip-on-Clyde, but not having sufficient local interest, lost the appointment, which, he said, was the greatest disappointment he ever felt.

In 1840 he was made Professor of Midwifery in Edinburgh University at the age of twenty-nine. His election was keenly opposed.

In 1847 he introduced chloroform as an anæsthetic agent, and it is this which has spread his name throughout the civilized world.

About ten years ago he recommended acupuncture as an hæmostatic agent.

He took great interest in the construction of hospitals, being an advocate for the cottage system, or if this were impossible, he held that there should at least be outside stairs, and that one ward have no communication with another.

Besides his numerous and varied writings on medical subjects, he made several valuable contributions on antiquities. Amongst these are the following:—"Sculptured Stones of Scotland," "Medical Officers of the Roman Army," "Cat-stone of Edinburgh," "Magical Charms and Cave-Sculpturings in Fife," &c., &c.