

regard to the uses of the azotized, or plastic, and non-azotized, or combustible elements of food. Sugar of milk is an article belonging to the latter class, and is, moreover, readily digested, and possessed of a great affinity for oxygen. It may therefore be of use in supporting the slow combustion which is more or less impeded in pulmonary disease.

PERISCOPE.

Brewer's Yeast in Puerperal Fever, &c. By Gideon B. Smith, M.D., Baltimore.—I deem it a duty to report the two cases described below, for the benefit of the profession, and for the sake of humanity. I am well aware of the reception they will meet with from the profession generally, but cannot be deterred from offering them to you on that account.

The subjects were the wives of two brothers: the first about 22 years of age, married about twelve months, with her first child, of a delicate constitution, very thin habit, and nervous temperament; the second, about 26 years of age, of a healthy, full habit, sanguine temperament, with her second child. The first was delivered of a healthy, male child, on the morning of the 8th January, after four hours, and a very comfortable labor. The child was small, not weighing over 6 lbs. There was not a drop of blood lost at the birth of the child, nor at the delivery of the placenta, though a moderate lochial discharge commenced during the first twenty-four hours. Everything was doing exceedingly well until the morning of the fourth day, when I was told she had passed a very restless night, complaining of great pain in the lower part of the abdomen. On examination I found the uterus much distended, globular, hard and exceedingly sensitive, so much so that the slightest touch caused the patient to scream with agony. Her very delicate constitution and thin habit seemed to indicate that local bloodlettings alone must be relied upon so far as that agent was concerned. I ordered cups to be applied over the uterus, and about ten ounces of blood taken. This promptly relieved her of the pain. I gave her the usual antiphlogistic medicines internally. At 7 P.M., found her with all the symptoms of typhoid puerperal fever fully developed; sordes on the teeth and gums, and blackish burnt-leather coat on the tongue; pulse 140 to 150, small, wirey, quick: the whole abdomen very tender to the touch, but no pain. Stopped all other medicine and ordered *Brewer's yeast*, diluted with an equal quantity of water, and rendered palatable with sugar, a tablespoonful every two hours. The nurse informed me next morning that in half an hour after she took the first spoonful of yeast, she was evidently better. I found her in the morning much improved. The sordes had left the teeth; pulse 120, more full; tongue not so dry; tenderness of the abdomen much diminished; the milk returned to the breasts, so that it was necessary to have them drawn; the lochia increased; the uterus nearly reduced to its natural condition. She kept steadily improving, until, on the 12th day, I left her cured.

In the second case, the woman was delivered on the evening of the