

prescription will not be Fat 3.50, Sugar 7.00 and proteid 1.50, but it will be Fat 3.50, Sugar 7.00, and proteid whatever amount the child can digest. The recognition of this situation will make for us an endless number of resources for simple modification of cows' milk, and will necessarily avoid the use of the bicarbonate and the citrate of soda, and of lime water, which, when used, are, we believe, a command for nature to step aside, while a nurse performs nature's work, with a drug and a spoon. I do not hesitate to say that the use of chemicals in infant feeding has been of great benefit. They have helped us through many difficult places, but we would advocate in their stead the simplest possible means of milk modification based on an appreciation of the chemistry of milk, and of the chemistry of digestion.

In speaking of the digestive capability of infants, it must be remembered that at the birth of a child, all its faculties are not developed, and that one child may be more developed at that time than another. A new born child cannot hear. It does not see much, and it is doubtful if it can smell. Is it not fair to assume, therefore, that its peptic cells do not functionate? And so chemicals ought to be regarded by pediatricists as unnecessary in respect to infant feeding, as is the use of spectacles or aurophones, or as is the use of powerful antiseptics in surgical technique. When we give up modification of milk on the principle pointed out by nature, and resort to measures no matter how scientific, or how theoretically true may be the principle upon which they are based, it is because our diagnostic abilities do not comprehend the digestive powers and requirements of individual infants—which is the great factor in the problem.

Before speaking of the practical application of our knowledge, let us recall some of the knowledge that has been handed out to us by the chemist and laboratory man. German schools, which are the home of the laboratory, in showing the value of an energy-quotient in infant food formula, have found that human milk contains 650 calories per litre, with a percentage composition of fat 3.50, sugar 6.50 and proteid 1.50, but a modified milk, with approximately the same caloric value, and having 650 calories to the litre, can be written in three ways, as:

	Fat.	Sugar.	Proteid.	Caloric Value.
1.	2.00	8.00	3.50	657
2.	4.00	6.00	1.00	659
3.	3.50	6.50	1.50	653

It will be admitted that Number 1 is unsuited for many babies, and it is doubtful if any child would continue to do well on either