

The existence of atmospheric impurities demands removal of the little patient. Among the well-to-do classes atmospheric impurities are rarely operative in summer. Change of air will rarely be required in this class of patients. How different is it among the poor! The noisome tenements in which the children of the poor, and many even of the better class of working people, are huddled together are excellent places for the culture and propagation of the elements that contribute to the development and maintenance of summer diarrhœa in children. The chief aim in the treatment of the latter is now recognized to be clean food taken into a clean stomach, and its detritus removed as far as possible through a clean intestinal tract. The difficulty of meeting these indications in apartments abounding in dust and emanations from numerous human beings crowded together need but be referred to. Hence, removal from the influence of this prominent etiological factor becomes imperative, not for the purpose of securing, as was formerly held, air containing more oxygen, but with a view of having the patient surrounded by air containing less filth and its accompanying bacteria. While a change is imperative in almost all cases of summer diarrhœa of the children residing in crowded tenement houses, it is not so important in those cases whose environment is more favorable for home treatment. Indeed, the change from a comfortable home to a country hotel, which is apt to be overcrowded, is not to be advised without careful reflection. It is not an infrequent occurrence to order a sick child away when the symptoms become alarming without time for preparation or due inquiry. The consequences are discomfort from immaturity of plans, great expense, disturbance of the family, and consequent anxiety and unhappiness for the parents and friends.

Do the benefits to accrue to the little patients warrant these? The advantages and disadvantages of removal should be well weighed ere a change of air is decided upon; but, above all things, we must be satisfied that we have exhausted all other treatment. As I have said already, careful attention to sterilization of the food and to intestinal irrigation are of far greater importance than change of air. *We should be sure that these have been fairly tried before advis-*

*ing the change.* This statement is made as the result of practical observations at a noted summer resort, where I see many such cases every summer. To illustrate: In the summer of 1890 I was asked by Dr. Alfred Meyer, who was ill, to see for him a wizened-faced infant whose mother, being poor, had, at great sacrifice, brought it to a third-rate hotel at Long Branch for change of air as a last resort. The child had not improved simply because its food was not proper and its intestinal canal had not been flushed. One dose of castor oil, followed by two intestinal irrigations, and the use of sterilized milk, obtained by converting her medicine bottles and saucepan into a sterilizer, brought about a rapid recovery, enhanced by the constant exposure of the infant to the pure, ozone-laden air. Last summer I was called to the Long Branch home of the Babies' Shelter of New York to see two children whose diarrhœa had not improved under the best dietetic and medicinal care in the city and after several weeks' residence in the country. A few intestinal irrigations sufficed to make a complete change in these cases, and contributed more to their recovery than change of air had done. The lesson from such cases is evident. While all cases of summer diarrhœa of infants living in crowded houses demand change of air, other treatment is at least equally important. Among the better-situated change of air need not be insisted upon until all approved methods of treatment have been fairly tried.

*Conditions indicating Baths.*—Baths for cleanliness are always demanded in summer diarrhœa, not only because the frequent soiling renders them more necessary, but because the maintenance of the functions of the skin seems to relieve internal congestion and fluxion.

In acute cholera infantum baths for therapeutic purposes are of paramount importance, affording more positive relief and contributing more to the cure than all other measures. This form of summer diarrhœa has by some not inaptly been regarded as a type of heat-stroke. Certain it is that if the temperature is taken in the rectum it will almost always be found high; not infrequently there is hyperpyrexia, though the skin of the extremities and face be cool and clammy. Whenever the temperature exceeds 102° F., a cooling procedure is indicated. It is