

running into the other. If you are consulted in the early stage, you find the tongue slightly coated, but white, appearing as if the child had just taken a drink of milk. The stools green, somewhat painful, but not frequent, &c., &c. This is always treated with antacids, as *hydj. c. creta*, with *creta cum opio comp.* or carb. soda, so that I have no particular point to call your attention to. But what is far more likely, you do not see the case till various pills and potions have been administered by the too confident parents, suggested by the too knowing neighbours, *whose children have been exactly the same*, and cured by the far-famed remedy. You find the tongue coated in the centre with a dirty-white, inclining to brown, the tip and sides red, the fauces, gums, and lips of the same colour, a painful expression of countenance, with a whining feeble cry, constantly picking its lips or ends of its fingers; stools more frequent, of the colour of the coating of the tongue, more painful before each motion, and increasing in frequency, &c., &c., and you will invariably find an alkaline reaction, the stools often effervescing with nitric acid. Whatever cause of treatment you would each suggest, you will find its efficacy most wonderfully advanced by an acid accompaniment such as *Tr. ferri. muriatis*. Or still further, you may find the eyes sunken, with a dark areola; skin something of the colour of the tongue, flesh full but flabby and doughy, with other strumous indications. Here is an opportunity for a double chemical action. Feed the child on starch, and give diluted nitric acid. You will not only furnish the best nourishment, and counteract the excess of alkali in the system, but nitric acid converts the starch into oxalic, than which no remedy appears to have such specific power over the strumous diathesis.

Take another familiar example with chloroform, one in which you have no doubt been sorely tried, and wished, like the patient man of old, "your enemy would write a book" on it. A child at breast—the mother strong and healthy—eats her meals with relish, has plenty of milk for the child, even more than it requires. This you find on standing in the glasses, rich, and covered with thick, almost buttery, cream. She tells you the child nurses freely and throws it up without any curdling. Bowels inactive for a few days, then three or four motions a day for a few more. Child pale and pulse feverish, and fretful, crying and whining constantly. Here is a case of infantile indigestion, tending to cachexia. You prescribe *Infus. Cinchona* or some tonic but without avail. Chemistry says, if you give that child sugar, it will convert the casein of the milk into lactic acid, the natural gastric juice of the child, and experience confirms the magical effect.

A white tongue is not a characteristic of Pneumonia, (I mean a clean white like milk distinguished from the snow white of inflammation) but your experience will call to mind many cases of this formidable disease, with this anomalous attendant, and its no inconstant fellow symptoms of an acidulous action, the discharge of *green bile*,—The chemical treatment in this case, is to combine *Liquor Potassæ* or *Bi. Tart. Potass*, with your other remedies.

Rheumatism has been so frequently associated with excess of acid, that theorists have, for a few years past, laid down an alkaline course of treatment—but that excess of acid in the acute or of alkali in the chronic, is symptomatic of the