

is the cause in summer. It was first shown by Pasteur that the coagulation is due to the bacteria. The most important discovery was made by Lister, that a drop of sour milk added to urine produced a change, and that a drop of this urine again caused the souring of the milk. Owing to the presence of bacteria the proper breaking up of the casein is interfered with, the intestinal tract becomes inflamed and thus gives rise to summer diarrhoea. The author cited different writers in favor of this view.

This points the way to treatment: bismuth, mercury, etc., have given good results, while opium has failed.

We know the human milk is aseptic in the gland and is the best prophylactic. The best substitute is cows' milk, which is also free from bacteria as it comes from the udder. Milking is liable to introduce impurities, and foam, which is air with germs, is especially liable to catch any floating impurities. We had learned in other departments how important it was to prevent its access to the uterus. A milking tube would be useful, but it is not generally applicable, and the same might be said of goats recommended as nurses.

Next to preventing the access of noxious germs, sterilization of cows' milk must be good. Soxhlet's apparatus comes near to the requirements, and Caille and others have simplified it. These gentlemen think, because milk does not sour, therefore it is sterilized. But it has been shown that this is not necessarily true. Continuous exposure for half an hour at 100° C. is not sufficient for sterilization. Hence Caille's experiments were not quite as successful as Soxhlet's. Boiling the milk has been recommended by Jacobi as long ago as 1870. By this the casein is made more soluble and digestible. Various authorities corroborate this fact. He had convinced himself that milk could be certainly sterilized if the temperature can be raised to 266° F., under pressure, and a lower temperature will suffice if continued for a longer time.

The hygienic management of the infant is next in importance. This remark applies to all diseases due to micro-organisms. A daily bath is to be recommended, and a proper amount of undisturbed sleep is absolutely necessary; hence, fondling should be avoided. Teething no longer requires the use of the gum lancet, which could be laid on the shelf along with other useless instruments. Though the nervous system is irritated, the process is a natural one. In the way of prophylaxis, attention to the infant's mouth is important. In the mouth, germ-free human milk undergoes no change. It is advisable in the summer months to clean the infant's mouth with a weak solution of boracic acid. Sudden changes of temperature in August are best guarded against by a flannel bandage and sacque.

In the curative treatment, diminish or remove the bacterial supply. A wet-nurse should be em-

ployed where possible. The artificial food must be looked after. Barley water and meat broth are very excellent substitutes for milk. A solution of white of egg in water is also a valuable nutriment. The presence of the bacteria must be neutralized, and all fermenting material removed from the stomach. The stomach requires absolute rest. All food and drink must be withheld for five or six hours. After the stomach has been thoroughly cleansed—if rest does not bring relief—peppermint, etc., may be tried. A dose of calomel will generally be retained, and acts not as a parasiticide merely, but removes the bacteria from the canal. Castor oil will sweep them out, and large draughts of warm water will do it. A rubber catheter will answer if attached to the fountain syringe. The tube is anointed with vaseline, and introduced and retained until a quart of water has passed, the child being laid on the stomach. The thorough irrigation of the large intestines, by the physician or competent nurse produces a most soothing effect on the patient; almost invariably quiet slumber ensues, even during the flow of the water. He cited J. Lewis Smith and L. Emmett Holt in corroboration of this fact. Local troubles should be met by local measures. Though he had used antiseptics, he did not think them advisable because they cannot be made strong enough; still the internal administration of antiseptics, naphthalin, etc., has found advocates. Bichloride of mercury and bismuth might be useful. He had abstained from medicinal treatment so as to maintain the integrity of the stomach.

Prostration of the vital powers is often pronounced. Elevated temperature marks generally a necessity for its reduction. He had not resorted to medicinal antipyretics. Cold baths will often change the aspect of the case. He cited a case in illustration of this point. Inanition, caused by diarrhoea, must be met by careful diet. Cows' milk, properly sterilized, will be useful, and the addition of dextrin and predigestion will be good. Warn mothers not to add milk to prepared food containing milk. He did not believe in Mellin's Food because it requires the addition of milk. Stimulants are good; whiskey and brandy are the best.

Opium was the only drug which will stop peristalsis of the bowels.

Dr. G. B. FOWLER spoke on the

RELATIVE DIGESTIVE POWER OF THE PEPSINS IN COMMON USE, AND THE ACTION OF THE DRUGS EMPLOYED IN THE TREATMENT OF SUMMER DIARRHOEA UPON DIGESTION.

He gave a synopsis of the results of some experiments he had made with different pepsins to ascertain their digestive value. After briefly dwelling upon the mode of manufacture of the article, he stated that in view of the fact that each maker claimed that his product was the best, he