

gest, you will find its efficacy most wonderfully advanced by an acid accompaniment, such as *Tr. ferri mur.*, or, still further, you may find the eyes sunken with a dark areola; skin something of the color of the tongue, flesh full but flabby and doughy, with other strumous indications. There 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 children, 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 glass, 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 fretful, crying and whining constantly—pulse irregular, with dry, sometimes feverish skin. Here is a case of infantile indigestion, tending to cachexia. You prescribe *Infus cinchona*, or some other tonic without avail. Chemistry says, if you give that child sugar, it will convert the casein of the milk into lactic acid, one of the elements of the gastric juice of the child, and experience confirms the magical effect.

Pneumonia represents most perfectly the type of inflammatory disease, and its treatment has been the subject of universal discussion in the profession—from bleeding and blistering, with starvation diet, to the other extreme of sustaining the patient—with no trust in medicine, but simply letting nature have her own way and the disease run its regular course. If our profession were not a science, and its members not men of thought and education, this following after nature might have some virtue. But it happens to be otherwise, and the physician's duty is to lead and direct nature in her wandering, to check or encourage as occasion may require. In this perfect form of disease he has a perfect plan of treatment. With the protean compounds of