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ARTIFICIAL FEEDING OF INFANTS.*

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The proper artificial feeding of the infant belongs to an advanced civilization. As science and civilization advance, so does a proper knowledge of the artificial feeding of the infant increase. Statistics have taught us that the bills of mortality are far greater among children artificially fed than among those breast fed. One reason for this may be that young children differ not only in general digestive capacity, but also in ability to assimilate this or that kind of food. One baby thrives upon fare which is innutritious if not actively hurtful to another. So to prescribe a dietary for a young infant is to engage in an experiment which, if it do not succeed at once, may require many changes in detail before it can be brought to a successful issue.

Perhaps in no department of domestic life is so much gross ignorance manifested as in the care of the infant in the earliest stages of its mundane existence. As the whole future of a human being's education depends upon the method it is taught the alphabet, so the whole health or sickness of the child's future may depend upon how it is fed during the first few days of its existence. One difficulty to be met is the adaptation of food to the individual case. The starting of a human being in life is a subject which should be carefully studied not by physicians alone but by the laity in particular. No woman should engage as a nurse without having a clear and reasonable knowledge of this subject. But

*Read at meeting of Medical Society of Nova Scotia, 1897.