

that the white colour and opacity of milk were not due, as was commonly stated, to the liquid being a fatty emulsion, but that they were owing to the fact that the fat globules in milk were invested with a caseous solid membrane which reflected light. By appropriate treatment all the fats of butter could be extracted from milk, and yet the residue would retain the characteristic appearance of that fluid. Butter-milk, which contained only 0.5 to 0.7 per cent of fat, was yet a perfectly white liquid. In milk there were fat globules without investing membranes, but they were not numerous. The solids in cow's milk never sank below 12 per cent. in the case of town dairy cows, or 11.5 per cent. in the case of farm cows on poor pastures. In Dublin milk of average quality, and when pure, the solids averaged 13 per cent., and the fats 4.1 per cent. From ten analyses of Irish mares' milk, Dr. Cameron concluded the average composition to be—Water, 90.0; butter, 0.90; cheesy matter, 1.92; sugar, 6.78; mineral matter, 0.40—100. Sow's milk he found to be extraordinary rich, and to contain water, 81.72; butter, 5.66; cheesy matters, 7.06; sugar, 4.60; mineral matters, 0.96—100. It showed no cream on standing.

LOCAL USE OF HYDRATE OF CHLORAL.

Dr. Heron Watson has been lately making extensive trial, in his wards in the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, of hydrate of chloral as an antiseptic and disinfectant. It is used in the form of an aqueous solution of about five grains to the ounce, and also as an ointment combined with paraffin, white wax, and almond oil. It answers the purpose admirably, and is found to be a non-irritating application, while at the same time it cleans and heals sores, and keeps down the bad smell. It is also being tried as a preservative solution for pathological specimens, and appears likely to be very useful for that purpose; but there has not yet been sufficient time to test it thoroughly.

AN ADVERTISING DOCTOR IN 1700.

The *Flying Post*, January 6, 1700, contains the following advertisement: It presents an idea of the medical practice of that date perhaps but little understood.

"At the Angel and Crown, in Basing-lane, near Bow-lane, liveth J. Pechey, a Graduate in the University of Oxford, and of many years' standing in the College of Physicians in London: where all sick people that come to him, may have for sixpence a

faithful account of their diseases, and plain directions for diet and other things they can prepare themselves. And such as have occasion for medicines may have them of him at any reasonable rates, without paying anything for advice. And he will visit any sick person in London or the Liberties thereof; in the daytime for two shillings and six pence, and anywhere else within the bills of mortality for five shillings. And if he be called in by any person as he passes by, in any of these places, he will require but one shilling for his advice."

In the *Practitioner*, Dr. Anton Ewald describes a case where vomiting of much acid fluid occurred on alternate days, with the expulsion, from the mouth and anus, of great quantities of combustible gas, which burned with a yellow flame when lighted. The inflammable nature of the gas was first discovered by the patient, who, when lighting a cigar, found to his surprise that his eructations took fire. Chemical analysis showed the gaseous eructations to consist of a mixture of carbonic acid, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, marsh gas, and a little olefiant gas. On examining the contents of the stomach it was found that lactic acid and butyric acid fermentation had been going on in the stomach at the same time as alcoholic fermentation.

TORONTO EYE AND EAR INFIRMARY.

We have received the seventh annual report of this Institution, which seems to be doing a good work. During the past year 81 persons were received into the Infirmary as in-door patients, the largest proportion of them coming from outside of Toronto. Mr. Langmuir, the Government Inspector of Hospitals, reports very favorably on the Institution. We, however, question much the wisdom of his giving, and of the surgeons of this charity publishing a certificate of competency from him, as is done in the following paragraph, copied from page 17: "Whether in respect of the wonderful character of the operation, the quickness of performance, and the skill and ingenuity exhibited, the operation reflects the utmost credit on the surgeons." We always thought the duty of Inspectors appointed by Government was to examine not only the internal economy of hospitals, but their sanitary state. We never before imagined that they were required to report on the skill and competency of the attending physicians and surgeons.