

the child must respire: so when it is in the free air and has respired, this effort is made and meconium expelled. Some is passed at times even during the course of the labour, but it is by pressure coming from the mother and exercised indirectly upon the body of the fœtus during labour.

Let us now pass to the study of normal stools, properly speaking. They are something quite special, they have a peculiar aspect, yellow, the yellow of buttered eggs, as well to the sight as to the touch. They are not humid but they are unctuous. They have no odour. They are in number two, three—rarely four in the twenty-four hours. They are not solid and formed, but spread themselves out slightly, forming small limited masses. They are made up of a large quantity of colouring matters of the bile, which gives, to them their fine bright yellow tint, and which are but little altered, according to Lehmann, since they have preserved their reactions. We find afterwards some casein which has scarcely been attacked by digestion, also fatty particles of milk and a small quantity of epithelium. Lastly, a very large quantity of microphytes of micrococcus are found there, which exist in the most normal stools, and which it would be very necessary to be careful of considering as causes of alterations when we will meet them also in great quantity in various pathological stools.

Let us name now matters of transition which are not really more normal, although most physicians and mothers are generally contented with them. They are already pathological: they no longer have the same degree of consistence—dryness and homogeneity. They are a little more fluid, less unctuous, less coloured, more acidulated, and, in contact with the air, they become green spontaneously: this is a pathological indication.

The pathological motions present different special characters. We can state precisely their number. It varies according to the quantity expelled at each stool. There are some children who have a great number of them—ten, thirty—because at each suckling, at each movement, they have a small stool. Their consistence is fluid to very different degrees; they spread themselves out and cover a great surface of the

linen; a portion of the bed is also spotted by the intestinal matter properly speaking, and around these spots is seen a wet liquid, colourless, zone, which must not be believed due to the urine, but which is wet by the water, which comes from the intestinal tube, and which separates itself from the solid matter. At that time it is necessary to be very careful in attributing to an abundant flow of urine what we have already pointed out as a sign of good health. The spots made by the urine do not form so regular a zone, and are seated on the most anterior parts of the bed.

The colouration of these pathological motions differs sometimes very little from the yellow tint: it is always whiter and duller. Usually they turn green in contact with the air, though sometimes they do not. They are made up in the beginning of small masses, of small striae of green in the midst of the yellow matter. The green becomes more and more marked. At a more advanced stage the matter is altogether green, like sorrel or spinach. This greenish matter is mucus, coloured green by the colouring matters of the bile. At a later stage, of a prognosis much more disastrous, the yellow and green stools are mingled with grains of undigested milk. At times even they are wholly composed of this badly digested milk, and of white milky grains: this is a veritable lientery.

The constitution of the motions is the same as that of the physiological state; as soon as the green matter has appeared it is almost always contained in the mucus; we see in it beads of adherent mucus, tenacious, and almost transparent. There are some cases entirely made up of substances of this nature. These are cases in which the children suffer enormously. We will not enter into a discussion of the nature of this green matter. Some have thought that it was blood exuded and thrown out into the intestinal tube. This is not admissible, for we would find traces of the blood globules. It doubtless proceeds from the liver, from the colouring matter of the bile. At all times these stools are not more bilious than other stools. It is more just to distinguish them by the name of green stools; although we do not wish to discuss here if they come from the biliary colouring matters, altered or not.