

nursing. Mr. Dolan has written an admirable essay upon this subject, which was sent to America in competition for the Boylston prize. Most unfortunately the publication of part of it in the *Practitioner*, previous to the award, deprived the author of his prize. I shall merely give a very brief synopsis of the results of his observations.

*Aconite*.—Two minims of the tincture were given every half hour to a nursing woman. After twelve minims the milk was drawn off. No trace in the milk. Still Mr. Dolan thinks that caution ought to be exercised in administering this drug to nursing mothers.

*Anise*.—(Aqua et Oleum).—Said to promote the secretion of milk. It merely flavours it and renders it palatable to the child.

*Anethum*.—(Aqua et Oleum).—Dill as a galactagogue is useless. Imparts an aromatic flavour to the secretion. It may be given to a mother whose child is troubled with flatulent colic after sucking.

*Arsenic*.—In several patients with cutaneous diseases, chiefly of a syphilitic character, it was given in the form of liq. arsenicalis. The children were weaned, the secretion maintained by artificial suction, and the milk thrown away. The experiments showed that arsenic had passed into the milk.

*Carbonate of Ammonia*.—Found in the milk.

*Acetate of Ammonia*.—Copious diaphoresis. Secretion of milk more plentiful, breasts more distended. On examination it was found to be thin, poor, and watery. So that somewhat like jaborandi this drug increased the water in the milk without improving the quality.

*Belladonna*.—The writer endorses Ringer's opinions as to its great effect in suppressing the secretion of milk (a drachm of the tincture to an ounce of olive oil rubbed over the breast). Even in mammary inflammation, when the breasts are tense, shiny, hard, knotty, red, and exquisitely painful, the continuous application of belladonna for twenty-four or forty-eight hours will, even under these adverse circumstances, often remove the tension and inflammation, and arrest impending abscess.

Is it to be found in the milk when prescribed for other reasons than the arrest of milk? Is it dangerous to the child?

*Observation I*.—After three doses of succus belladonnæ, twenty minims each, repeated every four hours, no trace was found in the milk.

*Observation II*.—Thirty minims of succus every four hours for two doses. Quantity of milk unaffected, with no trace on examination.

In these two cases no doubt the belladonna had been eliminated by the kidneys.

*Copaiba*.—In four hours after a dose of copaiba and potash mixture the urine was examined. 1. Odour of copaiba. 2. Milk globules made larger and coarser. 3. Answered the nitric acid test. The child would not touch the breast. Some of the milk drawn off was given to a child two years old, whose urine half an hour after the dose was found to have distinct traces of copaiba in it.

*Chloral Hydrate*.—It is cumulative, and sudden deaths occur from its use. In parturition, very large doses are sometimes given, especially in puerperal convulsions. In one case there was no trace of it found in the milk on the third day after 75 grains had been taken in doses of fifteen grains every four hours.

*Cod-liver Oil*.—No effect whatever was produced on the milk by doses of half an ounce three times daily.

*Castor Oil*.—In plethora, when the secretion is deficient, it is most useful; and the leaves of the plant will be found of great benefit applied as a cataplasm. When taken by the mother it is found to have a purgative action upon the child; the mother's milk having the taste and flavour of castor oil.

*Digitalis*.—In three cases infusion of digitalis in half ounce doses was given every six hours. None found in the milk.

*Iodide of Potash*.—Not an anti-lactescent as reported.

*Mercury* has been found in the milk, but in two experiments Mr. Dolan failed to find any.

*Opium*.—When the dose is large the narcotic principle can be detected in milk, but in small doses no trace can be found.

A lady was in the habit of using the tincture for sleeplessness. Usual dose was 20 or 30 minims. When the child was fed it slept the whole night without disturbing her. Her infant was pallid and listless. The milk responded to the morphia test.