

INFANTILE SCURVY.

W. F. HAMILTON, M.D., read this, the paper of the evening.

JOHN McCRAE, M.D.—I would like to ask Dr. Hamilton's opinion with regard to the incidence of these cases where artificial food is administered, that is, the relative quality of different kinds of foods. In a statistical report Allenbury's has seemed to show the most cases.

KENNETH CAMERON, M.D.—About fifteen years ago, when in charge of the Montreal Foundling Hospital, the late Dr. E. P. Williams and I met with three cases of what we looked upon as infantile scurvy. They presented hæmorrhagic eruptions, enlarged ends of the bones and subconjunctival hæmorrhages, practically a picture of what we now know as infantile scurvy. None of us, at the time, recognized the condition, until I read an article just then published upon the subject, and we came to the conclusion that that was what we had to deal with. The children had been fed entirely upon Nestle's food, and upon changing it and giving them orange juice, all symptoms rapidly improved.

F. J. SHEPHERD, M.D.—The first case I saw was a good many years ago when sterilized food first came into fashion. I was called in to see a very young child with supposed hip joint disease; it had come on rapidly, and the joint was tender and swollen, slight movement being agony. The nurse directed my attention to the child's gums and immediately it brought to my mind the picture of scurvy in sailors which was often seen in my early student days. I recommended orange juice to be added to the food and in a very few days the child got well.

Dr. GURD.—About ten years ago I experienced a rather curious method of diagnosing a case of scurvy. I overheard two ladies talking to each other about a third lady's baby, stating how very ill it was and giving the symptoms. I had just received my new edition of Holt and had read the chapter on Infantile Scurvy. I asked two or three questions of the lady about the gums and the painfulness on movement, swelling of the knees, etc., and I decided this was what ailed the child. I called up the family physician who was rather nonplussed by my action in telling him what ailed this infant. However, he invited me to see the child with him, and it proved to be a most beautifully marked case. It had been fed on Nestle's food, and this was immediately changed and orange juice given. That very night the child was more comfortable than it had been for three months. This case had been seen by one of our good physicians in consultation. The diagnosis made at the time was "an unusual form of rheumatism."

W. F. HAMILTON, M.D.—The discussion on this paper has proved what I felt to be true, that infantile scurvy is a rather common condition. Indeed, I believe it is comparatively common and many cases are regarded as rheumatism. I purposely left out the matter of