

cases of profound misery, or where the mother is unable to nurse both children, do the Hottentots regretfully decide on the sacrifice of one of them.

The mother always nurses her child, from whom she is never separated, even while at work. She carries it on her back. Labor pains are an inducement for incessant smoking, and children are taught the habit from earliest childhood.

Once past the need of the breast, children are permitted to romp about and to develop at liberty. Hence there are no infantile cripples among the Hottentots.

The age of puberty is an occasion for a copious feast, partaken of by both sexes.

Among certain tribes the young people must submit to a curious procedure, accompanied by ceremonies both strange and disgusting to our eyes. Young girls, who are naked during childhood, are now required to wear a skirt of the skin of an animal. After being on exhibition at the door of the hut for three days, a young calf is killed in their honor; an unmarried relative now presents his compliments, and placing the lungs of the beast on the head of the young girl, wishes her that she may grow to be as fruitful as the cow.—*The Post-Graduate*.

DIACETIC ACID IN THE URINE.

S. Lipliawsky's (*Deutsche med. Woch.*, No. 10, 1901) modification of Arnold's test eliminates some of the fallacies open to this and to Gerhardt's method. Two solutions are required, one containing 1 per cent. of paramidoacetophenon, made more soluble by the addition of 2 c.c. of concentrated hydrochloric acid, and a 1 per cent. solution of potassium nitrite. Six c.c. of the first solution and 3 c.c. of the second are mixed with the same amount of urine; a drop of ammonia is added and the whole well shaken. Ten drops to 2 c.c. of this mixture, according to the amount of diacetic acid present, are then added to 10 to 15 c.c. of sulphuric acid, 3 c.c. of chloroform and 2 to 4 drops of ferric chloride. After one-half to one minute of careful agitation the presence of diacetic acid is shown by a violet tinge to the chloroform, while in the absence of this substance it becomes yellowish or reddish. The salicylates or other drugs do not affect the delicacy of the reaction, which responds to 1-40,000 of diacetic acid.—*Medical News*.