

Recent Findings Regarding the Disturbing Elements in Milk for Infants. F. C. Neff, Kansas City, in *Journal of Amer. Med. Assoc.*, Dec. 18, 1909.

The 1909 edition of Holt's *Pediatrics* and the last edition of Still's "Diseases of Children" in Britain give no evidence of any change in the commonly accepted opinion that it is the excess and inadaptability of the casein and the low percentage of fat that causes the chief difficulty in milk administration.

Recent studies in Germany place the responsibility on the salts, sugars, and in some cases the fats of the milk. The important salts are the sodium, potassium, calcium and magnesium chlorides, which are $3\frac{1}{2}$ times as abundant as in human milk and sometimes act as a direct poison to the child, even when reduced to the same or a lower percentage than in human milk.

Sugar Disturbance.—It is described as a sugar intoxication, and depends on the presence in the food of the sugar of cow's milk. Infants suffering from the various stages of intestinal and nutritional disturbance leading up to marasmus are the most susceptible to sugar intoxication, and an elevated temperature results if they are fed on sugar alone or on milk containing sugar. When the sugar is eliminated the fever disappears. (This refers, as I understand it, to the sugar of cow's milk.)

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