

ditions, including, too, the severer forms. In supra-orbital neuralgia, *e. g.* the pain has been relieved at once, the drug being taken internally, and a little, finely powdered, being drawn into the nostril of affected side.

In obstinate neuralgia, good results have been obtained from 20 gr. doses (green). Again, in myalgic and neuralgic pain, it is recommended to administer ammonium chloride in rapidly increasing doses, until the desired effect is obtained, or the system becomes intolerant. On the Continent this salt has been much used for neuralgia and chronic rheumatism (Garrod). A property claimed for it by J. Ringwood is, that 30 grs will generally sober for 15-20 minutes, a person hopelessly drunk, so that for that amount of time he may walk steadily. The same writer recommends the drug in suppressed gout, a diseased condition which is receiving very considerable attention from some of the clinical teachers of the day, and which is held to be responsible for, and the basis of many undefined and obscure constitutional ailments.

It has been affirmed that the prolonged use of ammonium chloride in considerable doses has led to ulcerative condition of the stomach.

Original Communication.

THE PRACTICAL ARTIFICIAL FEEDING OF INFANTS.

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If we look through the advertising columns of any medical paper, we cannot fail to be struck by the great number of foods for infants to be found advertised therein; or if we examine the shelves of any leading chemist's shop, as I did a few days ago, and found fifteen specimens of separate and distinct foods for infants, we find the same thing. This multiplicity of material shows in what an unsatisfactory state infant feeding is; and shows that nothing definite and good has yet been arrived at. For each and every one and all of these foods claims to be the

very best artificial food for infants in every detail and particular. It has been said that the reason of this large number of foods is, that one suits one child and one another, and that no definite rule can be set down for their use without experimenting with them all. One can only pity the poor unfortunate child to be experimented upon. It is indeed marvellous how an infant can stand being abused as regards its food. It has been a source of wonder to me to see healthy and thriving children growing up in, and surrounded by, all that one would think would be necessary to produce the opposite effect, and at the same time fed upon a mixture that, physiologically speaking, ought to make that child's life of the shortest duration. It is hard at times to reconcile these practical facts with the thunderings of science.

If a child from some cause or other is deprived of its natural food, but the cause and reason of that deprivation ought to be a strong one, and every argument against it ought to be used, then it becomes our duty to find a food for that child, resembling as closely as possible in *every* detail, that food which has been taken from it and which alone it is able to assimilate and digest. In this we are met by many difficulties, the chiefest of which is a natural want of cleanliness amongst the majority of our people. It is with the poor of the city that the great difficulty of artificial feeding lies, and in these cases the practitioner's task is well nigh hopeless, for it is an almost impossible thing to instil into the stupid mind of the mother a few of the crudest rules of cleanliness as regards the administration of food to her poor puny and pining child.

When the infant is nursed at the breast it draws the milk direct from the nipple with out, as a rule, any intervening vessel. And in that way the milk is thoroughly sterile. Lister has shown that when the milk is drawn from the udder of the cow it is absolutely pure, but it soon becomes teeming with bacteria, from the teats, from the hands of the milker, from the vessel into which it is milked, and from the air of the stable, in the winter-time more especially—where the animal stands.

When we consider the number of cans that the milk is brought into contact with and the length of time taken till it reaches its destination, it is hardly remarkable that milk as delivered to the ordinary household, not to mention the poor people, should be found to be anything but sterile. And to