

changing it into glucose, and others on albumens, changing them into peptones. Among these, six resist for more than twenty-four hours the action of the gastric juice at the temperature of the body, while the bile and pancreatic juice have no distinct action on them. Vignall, in corroborating these experiments, says the action throughout the alimentary canal must be considerable, for a series of numerations showed that there were more than twenty millions in a decigramme of fæcal matter, six species of which were similar to some found in the mouth, but most were of different species. How much assistance these bacteria of health may render, and how much their action may be changed by pathological conditions, must still be a matter of speculation.

In what way has the knowledge of these poisonous ptomaines affected our treatment of these diarrhœas? Principally by distinctly emphasizing certain of the results of our previous clinical experience. It is obvious that the cleansing of the alimentary tract as far as possible from this fermenting matter by a smartly acting purgative must be our first step. For this purpose the treatment of every case should be begun by a full dose of castor oil or a powder containing calomel and soda.

At the same time all further administration of milk, as being an effective medium out of which the ferments can manufacture these poisons, must be stopped until we feel assured we have no longer to dread the action of these germs. It is well in some cases where the stomach is irritable to allow it a complete rest for several hours. Then one of the following foods may be given in small quantities: barley or rice-water, toast-water, egg-albumen water, mutton or chicken broth. Jacobi recommends the following mixture as being useful at the time: 5 oz. barley-water, 1 to 2 drachms old whiskey, white of one egg well mixed, and a little salt and sugar added; later on, an equal quantity of mutton broth may be added to this recipe. Another formula for a food to replace milk is the following by Foreschi: Dried egg albumen, $3\frac{1}{4}$ drachms; oil of sweet almonds, $8\frac{3}{4}$ drachms; sugar of milk, 10 drachms; carbonate of soda, 8 grains; chloride of sodium, 6 grains; neutral phosphate calcium, 40 grs.; water to one quart. Make an emulsion.