

DIARRHŒA IN CHILDREN.

Dr. Lees, in his paper in the *Med. Times and Gaz.*, May 3, 1884, calls attention to a class of cases, not very uncommon in children, in which the main symptom is an irresistible impulse to defæcation, experienced almost immediately after food has been taken. Colic pain may, or may not, be present, but there is no sensation of weight at epigastrium, heartburn, flatulence, or other symptom of dyspepsia. The motions are usually semi-solid, not often watery or slimy, and frequently contain undigested food. Usually a motion is passed almost immediately after every meal, and perhaps once or twice more during the twenty-four hours. Dr. Lees points out that these symptoms are evidently due to a hyper-peristalsis of the alimentary canal, without increase of secretion, the two factors of ordinary diarrhœa being here disassociated. Such increase of peristalsis, is probably due to irritation of the vagus nerve, which supplies the exciter fibres to the intestine, the splanchnics conveying the inhibitory fibres. The proximity of the nucleus of the vagus to that of the trigeminus, in the medulla, indicated the possibility that this increased excitability of the intestine may in part be due to dental irritation, the cases in question usually occurring during the period of the second dentition. Believing in the purely neurotic origin of the symptoms, Dr. Lees has treated several cases with bromide of potassium simply, without opium or any astringent, and had obtained immediate success, even in cases which had persisted for several months. The diarrhœa was usually arrested in a few days, and occasionally the children became so costive that the medicine had to be discontinued. Four cases were narrated, also a similar case occurring in an adult, in all of which speedy relief was given by bromide. In conclusion he remarks that individuals who suffer from these symptoms are often of a markedly neurotic temperament, timid, and easily frightened.

THE MILK-TREATMENT OF DISEASE.

In a rather extended experience with this treatment Dr. Tyson [*Journal American Medical Association*] has met with encouraging results in the following conditions:

1. In diabetes mellitus he has found no measures so efficacious as the dietetic and, of the dietetic, none so prompt as the exclusive skimmed milk regimen. The milk gives the crippled organs, especially the liver, more complete rest than any other food, thus allowing "the reparative tendency of nature to assert itself."

2. In certain forms of calculous disease. He has yet to see a case of uric acid gravel in which, sooner or later, the persistent use of milk did not cause entire disappearance of the deposit. He found signal benefit from it in a case of nephritic

colic. It may also obviate the oxalate of lime tendency, but will not dissolve the deposit. In phosphatic calculus it is rather contra-indicated because it has a tendency to alkalinize the urine.

3. In Bright's Disease it has accomplished good. It is especially indicated in the contracted kidney of interstitial nephritis, causing frequently a rapid disappearance of nausea, vertigo, headache and other symptoms. In parenchymatous nephritis and in amyloid kidney it has proved less useful, but often does good by "producing diuresis and relieving dropsies."

4. In gastro-intestinal disease, ordinary dyspepsia is sometimes signally relieved. In gastric ulcer, the use of no other food than peptonized milk should be permitted. We may expect "the most satisfactory results" from its use in bowel affections, especially of large intestine.

5. In obesity it has given most satisfactory results, reducing its weight consistently with health. It seems to do this by making the system call upon its stored-up subcutaneous fat for oxidizable material, the milk furnishing very little of this itself.

To sum up: milk is highly useful in disease, especially those mentioned, because it is non-irritating, leaves little waste, and makes the smallest demand upon the digestive function. Skimmed milk is preferable in diabetes and some other affections, because it is more assimilable than milk with cream. Some objections to its use have been urged, as that it sometimes causes indigestion, flatulence and constipation. The addition of lime water will do away with the first two objections, a mild laxative will obviate the latter.

The milk is to be given as follows: Four ounces every two hours from 7 a. m., to 9 p. m., at first. This, of course, will be insufficient. It is to be increased afterwards to six, eight or more ounces every two hours, until the quantity is from five to ten pints in two to four hours, according to the needs of the patient. The quantity may be increased by giving some at night. After a varying time other food may be tentatively given until it is found that it does not cause symptoms to reappear.

STOMACH-WASHING FOR DYSPEPSIA.

The practice of treating patients suffering from chronic dyspepsia, who resist the influence of regulated diet and of drugs, by washing out the stomach, which originated some years ago in Vienna, forms the subject of a paper by Dr. W. B. Platt, in the *Maryland Medical Reporter*. We are there informed that cases most intractable to all other treatments have quickly yielded to this means. The principle underlying the treatment is to keep the stomach clean, and, so far as is possible, at rest, for a time sufficient to allow of its complete recovery. The operation should be performed in the morning, before breakfast. A soft, red rubber tube is passed gently down into