

days the forces of the system will be severely tried by the acute affection, and so take his measures accordingly. Especially is this so in that terrible test of the capacity for endurance and of the amount of resistive power in a child—namely, bronchitis. The faculty of foreseeing that in one or two days the vital powers will be strained to the utmost leads to the adoption of timely measures to meet the hour of need. If the supporting measures are delayed till the time of trial is actually present they are too late to be of service. The impending adynamy must be foreseen and provided against in time, just as a sailor avoids a promontory on a lee shore, if the attempt has to be crowned with success. To convince the mother and nurse that failure of the powers is to be apprehended, and so to be provided against, to induce them to see it, and to convert them into willing allies to meet and avert the danger, is perhaps a petty diplomatic triumph enough; but its impression is not easily effaced, and the remembrance of it clings tenaciously if that looming adynamy becomes actually present, and the child rounds the point by a hair's breadth.

Beef-tea, freshly made, milk sheathed by an alkali, and even wine, are often called for in the treatment of acute disease, much oftener and earlier on in the case than many suppose. Especially may wine be advantageously administered when the powers are flagging, and the tendency to sinking is marked. Its skilful use at a critical point often makes all the difference possible in the result.

On this point, however, it may be well to dwell a moment. The present habitual recourse to stimulants has penetrated into the treatment of sick children, and is fraught with evil. The anxious mother gives her ailing child port wine or stout, as indeed she would give it anything that she thought would do it good, and too frequently in liberal quantities. She thinks, indeed, that such agents do her child good; she evokes manifestations of force which she mistakes for evidences of vital energy, and is gratified accordingly. In childhood especially is the system engaged in storing up force, accumulating a fund of body force ever afterwards available for emergencies, and which we can draw upon by stimulants in the hour of need. By a system of alcoholic stimulation the force that ought to be stored up is called out, and a vast portion of the growing capital expended. When disease comes, the reserve fund which should and would have carried the child successfully through the trial, is found wanting; it has been spent in producing valueless manifestations of force, in useless and fictitious appearances of energy, which are not the evidences of superabundance of physiological capital, but are simply loans on the body-bank. Such over-stimulated children yield unresistingly before the approach of severe acute disease; their powers have been undermined, sapped by an erroneous, indeed, vicious system of feeding. The plan is simply pernicious in most cases, and it is a matter for grave question whether the digestive powers of children are ever assisted by the addition of stimulants to their food. On the other hand, in the course of acute disease

it is often of the utmost importance to weather a danger-point, and for this end we may advantageously borrow some of the reserve force of the system by a stimulant. Especially can this be done in children who are properly fed and reared, whose powers are of normal tone, and unexhausted by previous stimulation.

An excellent illustration of the good effects of well-directed stimulation is furnished by the following case. Some years ago I was attending a boy of eleven for a low form of enteritis. The remedial measures adopted just succeeded in bringing matters to a standstill; but it was mere arrest. A little wine was ordered on the morning visit, which made all the difference; in the evening matters had taken a favourable turn, and everything was as desirable as could be hoped for, except the tongue was not cleaning. The inclination to give a few grains of calomel was with much difficulty ultimately resisted, and the powder was counter-ordered. Next morning the tongue was nearly clean, there had been two fairly copious motions during the night, and the condition was one of well-marked improvement. Had those few grains of calomel been administered, the results would have been attributed to the calomel, and the effects of the wine would have been mis-interpreted. As it was, the case was suggestive, and accordingly remembered. In pointing the lesson to be learnt, this case is perhaps more instructive than those of more critical states calling for stimulants, but where the effect is not so distinctly and unmistakably apparent.

In feeding sick children there are two points which call for more attention than is usually awarded to them. The first is the condition of acute indigestion in a convalescent child. Many and many a time does a rise of temperature, a return of fever, mark the administration of unsuitable food, or even of perfectly proper food in excess, when the mother and nurse regard it as evidence of cold caught, and charge themselves with some neglect. An emetic and a purgative, the old empirical measures of our forefathers, soon give relief. I strongly recommend those who have much to do with disease in children to be on their guard as to the confounding of a rise of temperature due to indigestion, or rapidly accumulating bile, with the feverishness of a cold, the more so as the diagnosis materially affects the treatment adopted.

Another point is the not uncommon condition of increasing marasmus in a child co-existent with a ravenous appetite. It is common after acute disease. The child eats incessantly, and yet wastes, dwindling visibly away. This matter was brought prominently before my notice in an outbreak of measles which occurred at Leeds during the time of my connection with the public dispensary of that town. When the measles were gone and the convalescence was commenced, the children in many cases ate voraciously and thrived in inverse proportion. It soon became obvious that there was much more food consumed than was digested, and that in fact the more the child ate the worse it was actually nourished. In one or two cases, where the