

the judgment of the physician—accuracy in the modification being thus assured. The chief function of the laboratory, then, is to fill prescriptions calling for certain percentages of fat, sugar and proteids, or anything else which the physician may desire to add—*e. g.*, cereals, mineral matters, malt, pancreatin, patent foods, etc.,—or the milk may be ordered sterilized, pasteurized or raw.

The general principles to be observed in laboratory feeding are, of course, those of percentage feeding in general. The most important indications according to which the percentages of fat, sugar and proteids are to be varied may be summarized as follows: Habitual vomiting or regurgitation is almost always due to an excess of fat or to over-feeding; and, for an infant with such symptoms, the percentage of fat must be reduced as well as the quantity of milk. If the patient is not gaining in weight, and yet has no special signs of indigestion, the rule is to increase the percentages of all the ingredients. "Habitual colic," says Holt (*Cf. N. Y. Med. Jour.*, Jan. 12, 1901), "is nearly always from an excess of proteids. For such a condition one should not give more than one third as much proteids as fat, and usually at first very low percentages. This condition is commonly associated with the presence of curds in the stools, which requires the same treatment." For obstinate constipation increase both fat and proteids. Something should be said, however, regarding the changes required in milk modification during very hot weather. At such times both the proteids and fat must be reduced, but particularly the latter. It is seldom wise in any case, even with perfectly healthy children, to have the fat in the summer months over 3 per cent. and during short periods of excessive heat it should be reduced to 2 per cent. It is a good rule to begin with very young infants, with low percentages, especially of the proteids, which should not be above .50 per cent. for the first two weeks of life, and some authorities say .25 per cent. Fats and sugars should also be moderately low, about 2 per cent. for the former and 5 per cent. for the latter. Of course, much older children sometimes require these low percentages; but for a short time only.

*Home Feeding.*—The prime object in modifying milk is to obtain a mixture upon which the infant will thrive, and many prominent pediatricists have become satisfied from clinical experience that if care be taken to select good cow's milk, in which the growth of bacteria has been prevented by cooling, and due observance has been had in regard to