

Enterocolitis is an acute affection occurring usually during the months of August, September and October. The patients are fairly well-nourished, artificially-fed babies in whom, as often as not, there has never been any digestive disturbance. The onset is sudden; prostration great; wasting is not a prominent feature, the majority losing but little weight before death. Gastro-intestinal indigestion is a more chronic affection, gradual in development, nutrition of cases poor, in short, a wasting disease. They were admitted in every month of the year, the greatest number in August. Some of these cases must undoubtedly be due to a superadded pathogenic infection.

There were 11 cases of malnutrition, all of whom recovered, and 13 cases of marasmus, 9 of whom died, and 4 discharged unimproved.

The distinguishing of these types is of more than academic interest. Why should a baby who has thrived fairly well on some artificial food be taken from that food and be made the subject of dietetic experimentation from the time he develops an acute enterocolitis? It is granted that a reduction of any food is necessary, but surely the attention should be devoted to the inflammatory nature of the illness, remembering that the cause of the complaint is not always in the food, even though it may be proprietary. Many of this type come to the hospital after being fed on a different food every day or so from the onset. The mortality is high, but the cases are not selected, or are rather a selection of the worst, many being moribund at the time of admission.