

kephir as a food in the wasting diseases of childhood. He has had good results in cases of infantile atrophy and in cases of chronic diarrhoea, where the only nourishment was kephir. In infants under a month old he orders it diluted with one-third water, and in the first stage of fermentation. Children of a few months old are, after a few days, able to take readily the kephir that has undergone the complete fermentation.

In kephir fermentation, the thick, hard curd of the milk gives place to fine flakes, which presents a much greater surface to the solvent action of the gastric juice. The presence of lactic acid tends to prevent putrefaction, as well as also to directly aid digestion.

CALOMEL AS A DIURETIC.

Stintzwig reports that he has tested the diuretic action of calomel in twenty-five cases of dropsy due to different causes. In cases of cardiac dropsy he almost invariably found it to be of marked benefit, while in dropsies of hepatic and renal origin its action as a diuretic was slight indeed. He gave three grains (0.2) three times daily, and where there was a tendency to its bringing on diarrhoea he added small quantities of opium (one-tenth of a grain) to each dose. The increased diuresis usually began between the second and fourth day of the administration. He considers that the drug acts by stimulating the renal epithelium. If so, it is difficult to understand how it should fail in renal and hepatic dropsies and succeed in the cardiac dropsies. Agents that succeed in removing the latter form of dropsy act as far as we know at present through their influence on the blood pressure.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COD LIVER OIL.

The well-recognized advantages of cod-liver oil over other fats in wasting diseases consists essentially in the comparative ease with which it is absorbed. Its fatty acids, without any influence of the pancreatic juice, become converted into soaps. Prof. Mering of Strassburg maintains that these advantages of cod-liver oil over other fats is due to the comparatively large amount