

appointed to visit it, and found magnificent pastures, a splendid herd of cattle in the healthiest condition, but further investigation showed that the water used for the cattle was obtained from a pond into which a manure heap drained. This rectified, no further cases of typhoid manifested themselves. When diarrhoea occurs, in children particularly, at this season, milk as a diet should generally be avoided. Thin arrow-root and barley water, with gum or isinglass dissolved in them and slightly sweetened, given in small quantities at a time should be the only food. If much thirst exists and the stomach is irritable, a little cold water is beneficial, but the precaution of boiling it first should be taken. In protracted cases boil some flour in a napkin, allow it to dry, scrape and make a drink with rice water and a little white sugar. The body and extremities should be kept warm, and the first solid food taken a preparation of rice. The patent and advertised foods for children are legion, and no doubt many of them are very valuable; but the diet advised is easily obtainable and readily made at home.

ETHER OR CHLOROFORM AS AN ANÆSTHETIC.

DR. GERSTER, said, at a meeting of the New York Academy of Medicine, both chloroform and ether were dangerous anæsthetics. Chloroform caused very marked depression of the vaso-motor function; the depression occurred only occasionally when ether was used. The practical significance of this fact was that chloroform was the more powerful agent, and that its administration required much greater caution. But this was not sufficient ground for its unqualified condemnation. After consciousness had been restored there was no secondary dan-

ger from chloroform. On the other hand, although ether had not so often caused death on the operating-table, yet danger from its use did not cease when the patient regained consciousness; there were numerous cases of pneumonia and nephritis following its use, many of which terminated fatally. The author thought that physicians were prejudiced regarding the relative value of ether and chloroform as anæsthetics; this was especially true in New York, Boston and Philadelphia, where ether was used almost exclusively. He proposed to point out the cases in which chloroform was contra-indicated; also those in which ether was contra-indicated, admitting that, on the whole, ether was the safer anæsthetic, and that in general preference should be given it, especially by the inexperienced. He regarded Ormsby's as the best inhaler; less ether was required with it, and recovery from its influence was much more prompt on that account.

Ether was contra-indicated in kidney disease, as Emmet had pointed out. A case was cited in which the patient died from Bright's disease after the use of ether. Chloroform was much safer when disease of the kidneys was present. It had been employed in such cases for hours without any injurious effects. Ether was also contra-indicated in bronchitis, especially of the aged, and pneumonia. Three hospital cases were cited in which death occurred from pneumonia following an operation requiring the prolonged administration of ether. The house physician of another hospital had given him the notes of three cases of death from pneumonia during the year 1886 after the use of ether in operations. In five cases serious bronchitis occurred after the use of ether in the German Hospital during 1886. There was a class of operations in which ether could not easily be given,