

be said to hold an equal, if not superior, position to others commonly employed. Recent authorities appear to agree in the opinion that we have no reliable intestinal antiseptic, and mercury in some form has the additional advantage that it stimulates the flow of bile, the natural antiseptic of the bowels, that its effects may be continued in small doses after the initial catharsis has been produced, and while exerting its antiseptic properties tends to maintain a certain amount of movement which is necessary for the expulsion of foreign products.

This brings us to the consideration of digestives. During the first twelve or twenty-four hours of an ordinary attack complete rest should be allowed the stomach, nothing in the way of nourishment being permitted except plenty of boiled water and small amounts of such articles as either whey, albumen water, barley water, or freshly-expressed, home-prepared beef juice. After this interval it becomes necessary in most cases, especially if the attack appears likely to be a prolonged one, to administer some more nourishing food, and at the same time a medicinal aid to its digestion. Some preparation containing pepsin and hydrochloric acid in combination meets the latter requirement, and may be obtained in different attractive and palatable forms.

The importance of at once securing as perfect digestion as possible is paramount when we consider the frequent tendency that this affection has, if mismanaged, to merge into an inflammatory condition of the lower bowel, or, to be the forerunner of cholera-infantum.

In preparing the foregoing paper I have endeavored merely to outline the treatment of those more important indications which the etiology appears to suggest, and which are often abused by the indiscriminate use of harmful drugs.