

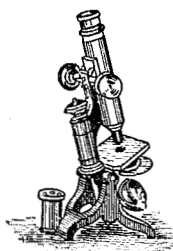
DENTITION.

About the sixth or seventh month the gums become tender and congested, and the child becomes cross and peevish, and may exhibit a slight amount of feverishness. These are the usual symptoms which usher in teething in healthy children. The milk teeth should be cut in the following order. The two lower central incisors appear from the seventh to the ninth month. After five or six weeks come the two upper central incisors, then the two lower lateral incisors, followed by the upper lateral incisors. After an interval, the four front molars followed by the four canines, and finally the four posterior molars. The child should have cut twelve teeth by the time it is a year or fourteen months old, and should have obtained its complete set of twenty by the end of the second year.

Except for the above-mentioned disturbances during teething, a healthy child should not suffer. A weakly child may have enlarged glands beneath the jaw, or diarrhoea, or slight bronchitis or some temporary skin eruption; but in most cases these troubles have some other cause than teething. In any case, during this period, the nurse should pay special attention to the bowels of the child, giving a small dose of whatever aperient the doctor has prescribed for the child, whenever this is necessary. Great care should always be devoted to the preservation of the temporary teeth. A small soft tooth brush with tepid water should be used every night to dislodge any particles of food which may have collected between the teeth. And if this be advisable in health, it is needless to insist upon its extreme importance when the child is ill. Then the nurse can never sufficiently remember that decomposition occurring in the mouth taints the air breathed by the child, and so, of course, does harm; causes more or less fermentation in the food which is swallowed, and sets up flatulence and pain, or even a more serious form of indigestion; and above all, sooner or later, sets up irritation in the mouth, discomfort in feeding, and therefore an increasing distaste for food, which in weakly or ill children may easily become dangerous to life.

It cannot be too often, or too much, emphasised, therefore, that so far as our present subject is concerned, the cardinal rules which the nurse should never neglect are: **KEEP THE CHILD'S MOUTH PERFECTLY CLEAN, AND ITS BOWELS ACTING REGULARLY.**

(To be continued.)

Medical Matters.**NORMAL SALT SOLUTION.**

THE medicinal qualities of salt, have been widely discussed during the past weeks, and Miss Idora Rose, writing in the *American Journal of Nursing*, finds something pertinent to the discussion in the following remarks.

The significance of salt has been impressed upon us from a very early date, Sacred History accounting for at least one unique process of formation. From that day to this it has held a place, and if we concur in the belief that nature has a use for all her materials, we ought to be able to convince the few who discard it from their list of ingesta that they are depriving themselves of one of the elements necessary to their complete physical compound.

Assuming the general recognition of its beneficial properties, we will pass by its discussion as a mineral, its place in economics, and consider it from the stand-point of a medicinal agent. This, no doubt, will call for the criticism from those who are daily called upon to prepare and use it, as a topic so common that discussion is unnecessary. But their indulgence is asked while a few thoughts are presented for the benefit of those who joined the rank and file prior to the many improvements of these modern days. Alumnæ societies can testify to the fact that the older graduates hunger for the new things in their line of work,—new methods, new apparatus, new ideas on old subjects,—and it ought to be a duty and privilege to satisfy that want as best we can. It is true that text-books on nursing are within reach of every nurse, but we find upon examination that many subjects are not treated in detail in these books, and it requires an original mind to make practical what is given only in outline. Furthermore, we are daily indebted to the physicians and surgeons for many new things not found in text-books, unless frequently revised.

With the subject in hand we are told that it is called "normal" or "physiological" salt solution, because it is so near like the normal serum of the blood when used at a proper temperature and at a given strength. Its therapeutic value is being emphasized every day by both surgeons and physicians, as it is used as a restorative agent in surgical and medical cases

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