

cool; others require to be set in a manure-heap to get the right degree of heat, and the Lily of the Valley Water has to be set in a hill of ants for a month.

Some of the directions sound quite romantic. One remedy requires butter in the month of May taken fresh from the churn and washed with the dew of wheat, and May dew gathered from corn is the approved wash for removing freckles. Many of them, however, require ingredients which are not included in the British Pharmacopœia. Milk Water for a cancerous breast, which, by the way, is taken internally three times a day, is compounded of four hundred wood lice, one ounce of crabs' eyes, four handfuls of Cranes'-bill ("the sort which is long in the stalk and has little buds on it"), besides other ingredients. A needle run through the body of a wood louse and applied immediately to an aching tooth will stop the pain. The treatment for a Chin-cough runs: "Take a spoonful of Woodlice and bruise them, and mix them with Breast-milk, and take them three or four mornings according as you find Benefit. It will cure; but some must take it longer than others." Snails and calf's pluck form the basis of a drink for consumptives. Gascoigne's Powder is made chiefly of crabs' eyes, and the black toes of crabs' claws, and the directions state that the crabs used in this powder must be caught in May or September, and they must not be boiled.

The excrements of animals had a definite value in the domestic remedies of the "Compleat Housewife." To clear the eyes we are told: "Take the white of hen's dung, dry it very well, beat it to a powder, sift it, and blow it into the eyes when the party goes to bed." For after-pains the directions run: "Take some hog's dung and wrap it in a fine linen rag, warm it, and place it on the lower part of the belly."

There are two separate cures for rickets given. One prescribes a certain drink, and then gives directions for anointing the buttocks of the child with butter in the month of May taken fresh from the churn and washed with the dew of wheat and boiled with herbs, and "the child is to be swung often with the heels upwards." The directions for the other cure are:—

"Open a Vein in both Ears between the Junc-tures, mix a little Aqua-vitæ with the Blood, and with it anoint the Breast, Sides and Neck; then take 3 ounces of the green Ointment, and warm a little of it in a Spoon, and anoint the Wrists and Ankles as hot as it may be endured: do this for nine Nights just before Bed-time; shift not the Shirt all the time. If the Veins do not appear, rub it with a little Lint dipp'd in Aqua-vitæ, or else cause the Child to cry, and that will make the Veins more visible, and bleed the better."

Well may we exclaim: "Nous avoûs changé tout cela."

Practical Points.

Change in Size of the Heart on Change of Position.

On skiagraphing the heart, Dr. F. Moritz has repeatedly observed that the shadow is considerably smaller if the patient stands than when he lies down. The effect is not a purely optical one, since the heart descends in the upright position of the body and shortens somewhat in the transverse and sagittal diameter. Even though the long axis lengthens slightly, the entire anterior surface will be smaller. The correctness of this observation on the human being has been proven without doubt by animal experiments. The change in size and volume is partially due to descent of the diaphragm, with the traction it exerts upon the pericardium, partially to the hydrostatic action of the upright position. The inspiratory narrowing of the orthodiagraphic shadow is also due to real diminution in size. It follows that every exposure should be made with the patient in the horizontal posture. Other advantages of the latter are: The respiratory movements are less extensive and the heart is more regular, the diaphragm occupies a median position and is not affected by the liver and intestines, the abdominal wall is relaxed, and weak individuals are less fatigued by long exposures.

The Magna Charta of the Cradle.

Mr. C. R. Woodruff, says the *Review of Reviews*, commends to the American public in the *World of To-day*, the action taken by the Mayor of Huddersfield in giving to every mother in the town as soon as her baby is born a legal promissory note for £1, payable twelve months after date, provided the child survives the year. By this means he is able "to get in some good advice" on the rearing of infants. The promissory note is prepared in due legal form, and is accompanied by "The Golden Rule for Babies," the whole document being printed in colours and the shape of a certificate. The following is a copy of the note and the instructions following it:—

FOR THE BABY.

Longwood District of the County Borough of Huddersfield.

Name of the Baby..... Date of Birth.....
Name and Address of Parents.....

The Golden Rule.

For the Life and Health of the Baby.

"Feed with the Mother's Milk; the Mother's Milk is the natural food and the best."

Twelve months after date I promise to pay to the parents or guardians of the above-named child the sum of one pound on production of proof that the said child has reached the age of twelve months.

Signed.....

Mayor of Huddersfield.

For every baby fed on its mother's milk who dies before the age of three months, fifteen babies die who have been fed by other means.

Rules for the Welfare of the Baby.

When the mother cannot suckle the child it should be fed on new milk and water mixed in certain proportions according to age.

At first half milk and half water, with a teaspoonful of cream and a little sugar. Then, as the child grows older, less water to be added. When cream cannot be

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)