

the latter. I have known the whole household upset because in a certain few days baby has not gained any weight. There are times when the weighing of infants may give us most valuable information and guidance in treatment, but there are times when much the best course is to send the scales to be cleaned or to get them broken. As a rule, numbers five, six, seven, and eight in a family are not weighed."

Dr. Voelcker seems to be unfortunate in the monthly nurses he has met, for, referring to cow's milk in connection with infant feeding, he says:

"It is a common error to assume that cow's milk does not suit a child because the child happens occasionally to reject some of it. This leads me to mention another error—that it is a good sign for an infant to throw up a little at the end of each feed. The monthly nurse has this as an *idée fixe*, but we should regard it either as a proof that the child has had too much, or, what is more often the case, that the child has taken its food too rapidly. Want of attention to this point of the rapidity with which children take their food leads to discredit being attached to the food rather than to the feeder."

Surely it is to the untrained woman who assumes the duties of a monthly nurse rather than to the well-trained and educated nurse of the present day that Dr. Voelcker refers.

In regard to the common error of exalting the decorative at the expense of the protective function of clothes, Dr. Voelcker says:—"It is only too common to see the chest of a child so cluttered up with clothing that the act of respiration involves the movement of a heavy and often constricting mass of clothes, while the limbs in their pathetic blueness are begging for even a scrap to fall from the overlaid chest. Some years ago, when I was seeing out-patients, I was in the habit of ordering the parents to cover up the limbs with stockings, and we had a Sister who used to enable the mothers to secure such garments for the patients; if these children were brought up without such stockings I would not prescribe for them. This may seem to you rather drastic, but I believe that protection without ipecacuanha is better than ipecacuanha without protection."

Referring to the habit of summer padding, he writes:—"I cannot believe that it is a good thing for children to walk about in hot weather without some adequate protection from the sun, especially when such a tendency to cerebral congestion is favoured by such acts as paddling in the water. I know of one doctor at the seaside who looks on the practice of paddling as a never failing source of professional income."

Oxygen in the Resuscitation of the Newborn.

Dr. C. D. Spivak, in the *Medical Record*, urges the use of oxygen in cases of asphyxia neonatorum. The idea is by no means new, Dr. Dunarguy and others having advocated it forty years ago; but it seems to have been practically forgotten by the profession.

Says Dr. Spivak: "At the maternity department of the St. Luke's Hospital, Denver, in desperate cases of asphyxia neonatorum a novel method has been adopted at the independent suggestion of two nurses, each unknown to the other. In one case, after having exhausted all his skill, resources and strength, the attending physician concluded that the child was beyond human aid, and left the hospital in despair. The attending nurse cast her eye on a can of oxygen which was standing in the corner of the room and decided to make an experiment of her own, even at the risk of incurring the displeasure of her superior. She turned a stream of oxygen into the nostrils of the baby, and was overawed to see the infant take its first breath. On the following day the attending physician was amazed to find a live baby in the arms of its mother.

"The other nurse in a similar case, timidly suggested to another physician, after he had thrown up the sponge, to use a few whiffs of oxygen. He did not protest against her audacity to express an opinion in his august presence, but grasped at the opportunity of trying a novel procedure. He was repaid by having saved a human life, and by the gratitude which shone in the eyes of the parturient and nurse.

"Having obtained permission of the physicians and nurses to publish the above, and after consulting the recent textbooks on obstetrics, the available current literature, and several prominent obstetricians without finding any record of the use of oxygen in asphyxia neonatorum in this country, I concluded that the subject deserved to be brought to the attention of the medical profession for the purpose of further research, discussion, and experiment.

"Even should future research not accord to them the honour priority, they deserve credit for having revived an old method of resuscitating the apparently dead newborn in the city of Denver, where this method was certainly unknown.

"Has oxygen ever been used, or its use suggested, in the resuscitation of the drowned?"

The above incidents show the use that an intelligent nurse may prove to both physician and patient.

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