

Colostrum is a bland, unirritating, non-coagulable fluid, and at the appointed time Nature adds the casein very gradually. It is easy to see that cow's milk, which clots in the stomach, cannot be a suitable food at this early age. I have notes of several cases in which vomiting persisted for two or three months after this initial mistake was made. Infant foods were tried one after the other with a like result, and I only succeeded in arresting the vomiting by giving peptonised milk for some time, and gradually weaning the child on to citrated undiluted milk.

I will point out the value of the "test feed" in another class of case which is not uncommon.

A woman came with a very wasted infant aged two months, and only weighing 6 lb. She had fed it entirely on the breast, and assured me that it obtained the milk because it sucked for about 10 minutes and then fell asleep. A "test feed" was arranged, and two hours after the last meal the infant was put to the breast. The scales proved that it obtained no milk at all. Milk could, however, be easily squeezed from the nipple, showing that an adequate supply was present. I ordered the mother to give 1 oz. of cow's milk with 1 oz. of barley water alternately with the breast feedings. During the following week the test feed showed that the infant obtained  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. from the breast, and the child had increased 4 oz. in weight. She continued to feed in this manner for another week, and the test feed then showed that 1 oz. was obtained from the breast, the child having gained another 5 oz. in weight. At the end of a month's treatment 2 oz. was obtained from the breast, and the child had gained nearly 1 lb. The cow's milk was now discontinued, and the child was fed entirely on the breast till it was eight months' old.

The lesson to be learnt from this case is, of course, that the infant was too feeble to suck at the breast, and therefore could not obtain adequate nourishment, and that by giving the bottle in addition its strength was considerably increased so that ultimately it obtained an adequate supply from the breast.

I think I have said enough to show the kind of investigation going on at these consultations.

The educational value of these consultations for the mothers far exceeds that which can be obtained by any other method. The distribution of leaflets on infant feeding, and the establishment of milk depôts, however well organised, must of necessity ignore the individual element in this problem; and this, as we all know, forms the real basis in our treatment of malnutrition and wasting.

## Memorial to Miss Florence Nightingale.

The Committee appointed at Grosvenor House last month to prepare a scheme for an Imperial Memorial to Miss Nightingale held their first meeting at the India Office on Thursday, the 17th inst. The proceedings were private, but no scheme at present has been adopted.

Realising how very inadequately trained nurses are paid during their working days, some form of charity to keep them off the rates in old age appeals to the philanthropic. The suggestion that by some educational scheme trained nursing should become of more financial value is a form of true economy which seldom finds favour where women's work is concerned; economic independence is not encouraged by those amply supplied with this world's goods. Sweating and charity have done much to undermine that fine old spirit of reticence and independence for which in the past this nation was distinguished, and we fear it is too much to hope that nurses will be spared their demoralising influence.

### THE LADY OF THE LAW.

It is stated that the suggestion of a statue of Miss Nightingale to adorn some public spot in the Metropolis has not been favourably received by members of her family. That may be so, but Florence Nightingale was not a private person. She personified by her genius the Sanitary Law. We trained nurses like to think of her as such—The Lady of the Law—and it is as our Lawgiver that we would have her visible in marble to the countless thousands who owe homage to, and gratitude for, her greatness and wisdom.

### THE WORKING UNITS OF THE NURSING PROFESSION.

The following Resolution, passed in London on November 4th at the Annual Meeting of the National Council of Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, and signed by the Presidents of the constituent societies, has been forwarded to the Conveners of the Grosvenor House and St. Thomas's Hospital meetings, called to consider an appropriate Memorial to the late Miss Florence Nightingale:—

#### RESOLUTION.

The National Council of Trained Nurses of Great Britain and Ireland, composed of sixteen affiliated Societies of Nurses, with a conjoint membership of over 6,000, welcomes the suggestion that an Imperial Memorial should be inaugurated to Miss Florence Nightingale, O.M., including the erection of a statue.

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