

ADMISSION PAPER "D and V."

The season of infantile diarrhoea and vomiting is drawing rapidly to a close, and the admission paper with its familiar scrawl of "D. and V." which heralds the approach of a mother with a collapsed looking infant in her arms to the ward door, will soon be a thing of the past.

The child tells its own tale, it has a weary listless look, somewhat cyanosed, with sunken eyes and depressed fontanelle, the skin of the abdomen is usually loose and wrinkled, and the extremities cold.

Except in very collapsed cases it is well to start treatment by giving a stomach lavage. To do this, the child should be well propped up and placed on its side, the tube gently inserted and stomach washed out with warm normal saline. The result is sometimes startling, as in a case I had a few weeks ago unmistakable signs of shrimp paste appeared in spite of the mother's assurance that only a "little new milk had been given"!

The stomach lavage should then be followed by a rectal wash out of normal saline till the result is perfectly clear. Then it is well to give a small dose of brandy and leave the child with hot bottles, if necessary, for a while.

After the child is thoroughly warm a subcutaneous saline, about 5-8 ounces, according to the age of the child, should be given into the loose skin of the abdomen. The saline should be at a temperature of 110 deg. F., not be allowed to flow too quickly, and strict aseptic precautions must be observed.

The child must be given water only by mouth for 24 hours at least. The water may be given either iced or hot, whichever tends best to check the vomiting. Small doses of calomel may be given with advantage, and the saline repeated in 12 hours if necessary.

As soon as the diarrhoea and vomiting has stopped, something more may be given by mouth, and I have found albulactin and water, unsweetened condensed milk, glucose and water, and Benger's Food excellent substitutes for cow's milk. In some cases the child is able to take diluted citrated milk or rice water and milk.

The high mortality among infants suffering from this dread disease is due very often to the illnesses following a severe attack of diarrhoea and vomiting, such as bronchopneumonia, wasting, tetany, and cedema, and doubtless many more could be saved if brought for treatment in the earlier stages.

As regards the general nursing of these cases a few most important points should be observed. An abundance of fresh air and sunlight should be admitted to the ward, the child kept warm, but all heavy covering to be avoided, and an even temperature as far as possible maintained. All evacuations removed at once, and the child be moved as little as possible and not taken up at all. Flies must be kept off by means of mosquito nets. Bottles, teats and spoons should be boiled after use, and a record kept of the child's weight.

Many of these cases suffer from thrush, and the care of the mouth is most difficult, as frequent cleansing tends to make the child vomit. Plenty of boiled water should be given, and the mouth gently cleansed by a piece of rag on the finger, dipped into glycerine and borax, and occasionally with hydrogen peroxide.

The eyes also easily become infected and result in corneal ulcers. This may be avoided by frequent irrigation of saline.

In cases when the temperature remains very subnormal, mustard packs, brandy packs, and electric cradles are very beneficial.

MABELLE G. FUSSELL.

THE CHEMISTRY OF MILK.

Dr. Ralph Vincent began his course of Lectures on Babies, at the Infants' Hospital, Vincent Square, Westminster, on Tuesday, October 17th, at 3.30.

Opening his subject, which was the "Chemistry of Milk," he said that in the course of these lectures one would notice that "babies" were hardly mentioned at all, but, instead, what happens to the milk which is their diet. Cows' milk and human milk contain exactly the same things, only in different proportions.

No food, generally speaking, for infants can compare with human milk, but it is quite a mistake to say that modified cows' milk cannot compare with it.

The composition of cows' milk is as follows :

Whey Proteins ...	1'00	Fat	4'00
Caseinogen ...	2'75'00	Lactose	4'50'00

HUMAN MILK.

Caseinogen ...	0'50'00	Fat	4'00
Whey Proteins ...	1'00	Lactose	7'00

It is generally said that in cows' milk the amount of whey proteins is very small, while the amount in mothers' milk is very large, but practically mothers' and cows' milk are identical in this respect.

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