

Changes in the kidneys. The effect of prolonged fever upon the kidneys was that the output of urine was diminished, and therefore the poison contained in it was more concentrated. Then the epithelium was apt to become changed, and this was shown by the appearance of albumen in the urine of a previously healthy patient. The amount of nitrogen was also increased. There might be some increase in the urea but the nitrogen increased enormously. The presence of nitrogen in the urine was a sign of wasting of the body.

Effect on the Nervous System. In slight cases the nervous system did not suffer much, but in severe cases the effects of the toxins in the blood might be very deleterious. It was because of this effect on the nervous system that a patient suffering from septicæmia did not know how ill she was, but often enquired when she might get up.

TREATMENT.

Temperature. The question arose whether one ought to interfere with the fever or not in a case of septicæmia. If the fever was mild (say 102 degrees) it was a good sign rather than otherwise, and showed that the body was re-acting against the infection, in which case it was best to leave it alone. But if there was hyperpyrexia (104 degrees to 105 degrees) the condition was extremely urgent and the temperature must be brought down, as it showed that the illness had got beyond the stage when the tissues were re-acting. To effect a reduction of temperature, cold or tepid sponging or cold baths were preferable to drugs. Further, in an hour or two's time after such treatment the patient was probably comfortably asleep.

Should we interfere in case of a rigor? Yes, because the temperature was high and the patient not perspiring. In the cold stage, an enema of 10 oz. of water containing 5 grains of quinine, and $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of brandy might be helpful.

Prevention of Tissue Waste. It was important to try to prevent tissue waste, and to conserve the carbon essential to the production of heat. Fat and sugar supplied the necessary fuel, and the latter should be freely supplied in the form of sweets and sugary things. The nurse or midwife should never be afraid of giving these, as they helped materially to prevent tissue destruction. Fat was more difficult of digestion, and consequently required giving with discrimination.

In regard to alcohol, Dr. Willett was of opinion it should be given in these cases. It was easily digested, and was a convenient method of supplying carbo-hydrates.

Salts of soda potassium were useful to counteract the acids liberated when the protoplasm was split up by the invading microbe.

Elimination of Waste Products. The waste caused by elimination must be made up somehow, and diluted toxins were less pernicious than concentrated. It was amazing how a patient responded to the administration of ordinarily salt solutions per rectum given at the rate of one

pint an hour. Five to twenty pints could be given in the twenty-four hours, and the patient improved with every pint given.

Fresh Air. Fresh air was an essential part of treatment. All cases of high fever should be turned out into the open air.

Lastly the prevention of tissue waste was most important. If this could be achieved much had been done for the welfare of the patient.

INFANT CLINICS.

Amongst the cases shown by Dr. Eric Pritchard to the members of the Post Graduate class for midwives who recently visited the Marylebone Infant Clinic was a child who had been attending the Clinic for a month. When first seen it could not stand, and though eighteen months of age had no sign of teeth. Four meals a day were advised and veal broth given.

Another case was a second child, the first had died at ten days old, cause unknown. For this baby, breast feeding two-hourly was prescribed, also two feeds of peptonized milk in the twenty-four hours.

These typical cases in an afternoon's work, show how valuable and necessary are these Infant Clinics in charge of a physician who has made a special study of babies and their needs.

VIROL IN PUBLIC HEALTH WORK.

Presiding at the General Meeting of Virol Ltd., held on Friday, June 4th, Mr. B. S. Straus (Chairman) stated that the business done in the last quarter of the financial year established a record in the trade of the Company. In connection with the movement for the promotion of infant welfare to which so much attention has been devoted in recent years, both by the Government and the Public Health Authorities, he was pleased to find that Virol was playing an important part. It had been widely adopted in the Infant Consultations and Baby Clinics that are now established in all parts of the country. The value of this movement had always been recognised by social reformers and its importance could hardly be over-estimated in the present appalling wastage of human life. Its special value to adults in cases of nervous breakdown, and in convalescence was also generally acknowledged. They were supplying Virol to Red Cross Societies and military hospitals, though on this department they did not look for much profit.

CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

In an attempt to deal with the problem of the children of unmarried mothers the St. Helens, Lancashire, Health Committee has decided to open a maternity home for at least 12 patients.

Classes for instruction in child welfare are being given and a bureau has been opened where babies will be inspected weekly and records kept of their progress.

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