

and 14 of these were under three. In the same year each thousand cases of whooping-cough represented 92 deaths, and 77 of these were under three. Even though there has been on an average four or five times as much measles the whooping-cough fatality leads for the six years (1913 to 1918) with 2065 deaths compared with 1908 for measles. This is a total of 3973 deaths from the two diseases and 3378 were under three. Measles is more prevalent but less fatal; whooping-cough less prevalent but more fatal. In the end they cause almost equal numbers of deaths and should cause us equal concern. Measuring our success by a reduction in deaths from these diseases it is at once apparent that our results depend very largely on how successfully we prevent measles and whooping-cough in children under three, among whom about 85 per cent. of the deaths occur (90 per cent. whooping-cough; 79½ per cent. measles). Propaganda and methods of control should be more specifically directed at the age group under three. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that in these dangerous years, when so many children die of measles and whooping-cough or their complications, the most careful medical attention and nursing are needed to prevent dangerous complications.

The Destructive Effect of Oxidation on Antiscorbutic Vitamine.—HESS (*Proc. Soc. for Exp. Biology and Medicine*, 1921, xviii, 143) states that the antiscorbutic vitamine was destroyed when 4 c.c. of a normal solution of hydrogen peroxide were added to a liter of raw milk, which was then placed in the incubator over night. Bacteria did not develop in the incubator under these conditions. When 80 c.c. per capita of this milk was fed to guinea-pigs in addition to oats they all developed scurvy in about three to four weeks, a result similar to feeding experiments with milk which had been autoclaved for one hour at 120° C. The addition of orange-juice to the dietary served either to protect or to cure animals on this dietary. Orange-juice subjected to oxygen for a short period was likewise found to have lost some of its potency. It was previously found that milk or tomato-juice which had been shaken had lost some of this vitamine. Probably this deleterious action is partly due to the effect of oxidation. The harmful effect of "aging" may also be interpreted in this way. As foodstuffs undergo oxidative processes frequently in the course of various manipulations no doubt this factor plays an important role. This action probably explains the differences in the antiscorbutic potency of foodstuffs which have been treated in apparently similar ways, for example, of milk which has been heated in open pans or in hermetically sealed bottles.

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