

of the slightest importance, or that a wet rag did not put an end to it in a couple of days. But I never saw a single bad result arising from revaccination. And the grand point is that of giving confidence to the individual, when you can at so little expense satisfy his mind and, moreover, satisfy your own mind; because if you refuse to vaccinate a person who asks you to do it, and that person subsequently gets smallpox, I need not tell you what you will get."

40. *Glycerine-Lymph for Vaccination and Revaccination.*—Dr. WEISS had ample opportunity of testing the convenience and value, indeed, the indisputability almost, of the solution of vaccine lymph in glycerine, when a large number of persons were to be vaccinated or revaccinated with as little delay as possible, in the hospital under his charge, during a variolous epidemic which prevailed among the prisoners of war captured during the late Franco-German contest, and he bears unqualified testimony in its favour. In six cases where glycerin-lymph was ineffectually employed, the operation was subsequently repeated with unmixed, pure lymph from the vesicle, and equally without effect. The entire number revaccinated by Dr. W. was 5801. Of these, in 1586 cases, the operation was successful; thus, by revaccination were extinguished just that many foci which would otherwise have contributed to the further spread of the epidemic. Previously to the revaccinations being accomplished, the disease was continually on the increase, while subsequently, new cases quickly ceased to occur.—*Centralblatt f. d. Med. Wissenschaften*, 1871, No. 48, from *Eulenberg's Vierteljahr. f. Gericht. Med.* N. F. XV. D. F. C.

41. *On the Use of Pepsine Wine in the Artificial Feeding of Infants.*—Dr. W. JACKSON CUMMINS made an interesting communication on this subject to the Cork Pathological and Medico-Chirurgical Society. The value of pepsine, he remarked, in those forms of dyspepsia attended by a deficient secretion of gastric juice, is so well known and generally understood, that it is unnecessary for me to trespass on the time of the Society by more than an allusion to them. In the diseases of children, however, and especially as a substitute for a wet-nurse, when a mother is unable or unwilling to suckle her own child, the benefit of this valuable aid to digestion is not, I believe, as generally known, although allusions to it are to be found in medical essays. * * *

There is nothing of course like a good breast of milk for an infant, if it can be had; and in the "good old times," when the peasantry and small farmers lived on potatoes and milk, without stimulating their nerves with strong tea, nor their brains with penny-a-liner's novels, there was an ample field for the selection of a foster parent, but now even when that *rara avis*, a good nurse, is procured, she is so independent and knows her power so well, that any caprice must be humoured, and she is always ready to throw up her situation or neglect her charge.

A wet-nurse is, then, an admitted torment, and a balance struck between its advantage and disadvantage is generally against the former.

Artificial feeding by bottle is a great improvement upon the old system of spoon feeding, as the act of sucking stimulates the salivary glands and insures due insalivation, which is an important part of infantile digestion. With such an aid the stomach of most human infants is vigorous enough to fall into the way of digesting cow's milk, properly diluted, and mixed with sugar and cream to assimilate the proportion of its constituents to human milk—but besides the relative excess of casein and albumen contained in cow's milk when compared with human, the coagulum of the latter is "soft, flocculent, and not so thoroughly separated from the other elements of the fluid as the firm, hard curd of cows' milk is from the whey in which it floats."—(West.)

And when we reflect that the digestive organs of the human infant are found to digest human milk, and the force of its gastric juice proportioned to the solution of its soft flocculent coagulum, we can understand why the solvent power of its gastric juice is sometimes unequal to redigesting the firm curd of cow's milk. When such is the case, acetous fermentation is quickly set up, offensive gases distend the stomach and taint the breath, vomiting and diar-

rhœa set in, and in process of time the little patient sinks into a miserable state of marasmus, and dies.

The remedy for this state of things is simple, for although we cannot change the elementary composition of the milk we have to use, we can introduce into the infant's stomach a digestive power proportioned to the food it has to use—the organic principle of digestion taken from the stomach of the calf.

It is now many years since I first applied this simple theory to practice in the case of one of my own children, who, when about three or four months old, was reduced to a condition of marasmus by vomiting and diarrhœa, due to imperfect digestion of cow's milk. I ordered him fifteen or twenty drops of pepsine wine, to be given immediately before or after each meal. Soon after commencing it he began to improve, and by degrees all bad symptoms vanished, and nutrition was quite restored. The pepsine was continued until he was nearly two years old, and he throve at least as well as if he had been wet-nursed; other treatment of course preceded and accompanied the use of pepsine, but it was not until the latter was commenced that improvement took place.

Shortly after a child, born in England, and bottle-fed, was brought over to this country when about six months old; he also was suffering from infantile dyspepsia, and was pining away in a listless, apathetic state, quite indifferent to surrounding objects, and appearing as if he would lapse into idiocy from malnutrition of the nervous centres.

I immediately ordered him pepsine wine, which produced such beneficial effects that after it had been continued about twelve months, he had become a bright, intelligent, well-nourished child.

Since then I have never recommended a wet-nurse, and have used pepsine wine largely in dispensary, hospital, and private practice, and have seen many apparently hopeless cases recover under its use.—*Dub. Journ. Med. Sci.*, Feb. 1872.

42. *Strychnia for the Relief of Obstinate Vomiting*.—M. DEBAUGE observes that, although *nux vomica* and strychnia have been employed in the treatment of various affections of the digestive organs, he is not aware of any account of strychnia being used for the relief of obstinate vomiting occurring in hysteria, pregnancy, suppressed menses, and disease of the uterus. This form of vomiting is dependent for the most part on asthenia, and occurs in debilitated subjects; and sometimes, after resisting all sedative remedies, it is arrested by the impression made on the gastric mucous membrane by stimulant drinks. In obstinate cases, however, these do not suffice, and then strychnia becomes a valuable remedy, and may be to this end administered endermically and hypodermically.—*Med. Times and Gaz.*, Feb. 17, 1872, from *Lyon Médicale*, Jan. 7, 1872.

43. *Stimulating Hypodermic Injections*.—Some German journals have recently reported several interesting observations on the therapeutic value of stimulating hypodermic injections in different diseases of an asthenic type, and more especially in the typhoid fever, which prevailed in the Prussian army during the last campaign in France. Dr. ZUELZER has used with much advantage a new curative method in these maladies, viz., an hypodermic injection of six to eight drops of alcohol or liq. ammoniæ. By this method Dr. Zuelzer ascertained that the pulse from being small and irregular became quickly full and strong, that the cardiac contractions, at first weak and feeble, became regular, energetic, and visible to the eye, and, in fine, that the cyanosis and collapse quite disappeared. The small abscesses which sometimes form in consequence of the irritating nature of the injection are, it is stated, of no importance, as in the greater number of cases they are spontaneously resolved.—*Dub. Journ. Med. Sci.*, Feb. 1872, from *Lo Sperimentale*, July.

44. *A Scarlet Efflorescence on the Skin produced by the External Application of Belladonna*.—Dr. J. G. WILSON records (*Glasgow Med. Journ.*, Feb. 1872) two cases of this. It has long been well known that belladonna administered internally will produce sometimes a scarlet rash on the skin, and we do