DIET OF INFANTS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

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Infants and Poung Children,

BY

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PREFACE.

The care of infants and young children falls, too often, upon hearts and into hands which, however willing, are yet but slightly educated for the work. Few mothers, indeed, are able, without professional advice, to do as they would for the welfare of their precions charges.

The proper feeding of the little ones, especially when the maternal supply prematurely fails, as happens with the majority of American mothers, is the most vital problem of all. To aid in its solution this little book is offered them by their sincere friend,

THE AUTHOR.

1706 GREEN STREET, PHILA... May 1st, 1889.

INTRODUCTORY.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FEEDING.

MAN thrives by good food; but wherefore? And if he do not thrive on a given food, wherefore, sgain? And how may he correct the error?

Prof. Liebig has laid the world under lasting obligation, by demonstrating the scientific principles of nutrition—for plants, and in like manner for animals. From these principles, we derive our answer.

Successful feeding is based upon the recognition of the chemical nature, the albuminoid composition of the tissues and organs of the body to be nourished—this, first of all. This at once indicates nitrogenized, and particularly, albumen-like bodies as essential. Eggs are composed mainly of pure albumen, with oily matter; and so is milk, along with casein, or cheesy matter, and bone-forming salts of lime, &c.; both feed the muscles, brain, nerves, and other tissues forming the body. Meats consist of similar substances, the fibre being composed of an albuminoid, viz.:

Casein is also an albuminoid. These all, by digestion, etc., develop into "peptones," and, thus become converted into blood-albumen which is the common food of all highly organized tissues, and tissue-cells. In the vegetable kingdom, the same bodies are found. Thus vegetable albumen is common; vegetable fibrin is called gluten; and vegetable casein, found in beans, peas, etc., is called legumin; all are nutritious. In the preparation of wheat. as white flour, we lose much of the valuable matters, which attach themselves to the under surface of the bran; particularly, phosphate of lime; but the hard tissues, teeth and bones, while needing the albuminoid, demand hardening matters also; principally this same phosphate of lime. All true food contains these; good meats contain an abundance; but white flour is poor, Graham flour being rich in this direction.

Furthermore, all nutrition and all life would fail, were our food to contain nothing but directly nutritious principles. As a condition of nutrition, and of all other vital functions, we need to add force or energy;—this must be supplied with the food, whereby, it takes the primary form of animal heat. Combustible matters, as fat, sugar, dextrine and starch, meet this requirement. True, other food, and even our own flesh, is combustible, as is soon seen in fevers; but it is wasteful so to use nitrogenized food; and the others, just named, composed largely of hydrogen and carbon, are needed, to this end.

Finally, a large amount of liquid is required in food, in

order that the chemical actions described may take place. Solids act together but slowly, or not at all. Four-fifths of the human body consists of water. Without fluids, therefore, nutrition fails.

ONLY THE PUREST WATER must be used for food and drink. Hard water is made soft by boiling, which precipitates its carbonate of lime Well-water is apt to be injured by the drainage of soil-impurities into it, and no well is safe, if it be shallow, or dug in loose soil, or located near out-houses, or slop-receptacles, or any kind of refuse. Ponds and running streams which are exposed to such contamination are likewise to be condemned for the sake of both man and beast. Typhoid fever, diphtheria, and other diseases are often propagated by such waters, and this, boiling fails to prevent Filtering removes only visible faults. Chemical purifiers may answer for the washtub, but not for mankind; they act as drugs. The water he uses must be originally pure.

The child, as father of the man, has like needs. At the same time, it is comparatively unable to resent an error, or to make known its wants. Thus is devolved upon its parents and friends the duty of choosing for it, as intelligently as may be.