



" CERTAIN ASPECTS OF DIARRHOEAL DISEASES.

IN CHILDREN."

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INTRODUCTION: - In choosing the title "Some Aspects of Diarrhoeal

Diseases in Children ",I have felt that it is not altogether satisfactory. Actually this thesis deals, firstly, with the general aspects of diarrhoea in children, and secondly, in more complete detail with certain points that have to me seemed more important than others. The main reason therefore, that one has used the above heading is that it is non committal, and very elastic. The nomenclature of diarrhoeal disorders in children is nowadays in a very chaotic state. When one first started this work one was very forcibly impressed with the many terms used to describe what was apparently the same condition. On reading through the literature one meets with such terms as " gastro enteritis", "ileocolitis", "colitis", "infantile diarrhoea", "summer diarrhoea", "infectious diarrhoea", "infective diarrhoea", "epidemic diarrhoea", "cholera infantum", "D & V" etc, etc. From this fact, it would seem that other writers have been in the same distress as the writer of this thesis. Mainly on account of this confusion I have adopted the term "diarrhoeal diseases" which henceforth will be shortened to "diarrhoea"

In the same way, in the title I have discarded the usual word "infantile", for, in dealing with any disease, to get a broad view, one should not confine oneself to any age period. It is assumed that "infantile" means "under the age of twelve months", and henceforth it will be used in that sense alone.

The word diarrhoea will be taken to mean any increased number of motions of the bowels, or any definite increase in the fluid portion of the stool above normal.

In the same way "dysentery" will be used only in connection with the group of diseases including bacillary, amoebic, infusorial dysenteries. The lay conception of dysentery as meaning the passage of blood and mucus in the stools will be discarded, and the term reserved for the specific dysenteric infections above mentioned. It seems to be nowadays the custom to use the word only as has been indicated above. One need hardly point out how difficult it is to appreciate the literature on this subject when such utter confusion of nomenclature exists.

The material used for compiling this thesis was collected during

the first eight months of the year 1921 while the writer was doing work for the Gastro enteritis Research Committee. This Committee very graciously gave permission for the material to be used in compiling this record.

The primary object of this research may be summarized under the following headings--

- ( 1 ) Investigation of the bacteriology of the stools from diarrhoeal conditions..
- ( 2 ) Investigation of the relationship ( if any ) of diarrhoea ( in children ) to vitamin deficiency in the diet: ( a ) of the mother of the child fed on the breast, ( b ) of the mother during pregnancy in the case of both the breast fed and the hand fed child, ( c ) of the child when hand fed.
- ( 3 ) Hygienic conditions of the home from which the sick child came.
- ( 4 ) Pathology, morbid anatomy and histology of the conditions.

<sup>thesis</sup>  
This is in the nature of a preliminary report, for as yet many aspects of the condition have not been considered.