AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Blood-letting

and its

Therapeutic effect

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by

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I feel my inability, to write anything now. But in obedience to a
Sine hummel custom, I
propose to give my view,
upon the subject of Blood
Letting, which may be di-
vided into "General," and
"Local," Bleeding.
"General," Blood Letting is
divided into "Incision," and "Arteriotomy."
When we abstract Blood
by opening a vein, it is
beneath "Incision."
This mode of Abstracting
Blood is most generally
used, and it is seldom ne-
necessary to resort to any other.
In this practice, we make choice of the vein at the bend of the elbow, because it is more convenient for the practitioner, with more ease and less danger to the patient. Yet we meet with individuals whose veins are so small, or so deep at that point, that we cannot obtain a sufficient quantity of blood in such cases. We are compelled to resort to other places, or other modes, of which "arteriotomy" is one. This branch of blood letting is not resorted to except in urgent cases.
as for instance, Apoplexy, Phrenitis, etc. Through this mode we make a more direct impression on a violent disease, of any important organ than we can produce by irritation.

The other modes of bleeding are, cupping, leaching, and incision. Cupping is the most generally practiced mode of "local" bleeding and is preferable if there is no tenderness of the part, and if we can apply the leaping glass, with these exceptions...
We can always extract the desired amount of blood.

In the above remarks I allude to adults, for in the case of children, fuchses are to be preferred because of their easy application and they alarm the child less than cupping.

Scarification is sometimes necessary to relieve the engorgement of certain parts. Where it would be difficult to apply either cupping or fuchses, for instance the "Jaundice."
Ostince re, and is a very convenient mode of relieving congestion in such cases. The first effect of blood letting is tranquilising. It takes from the system its natural stimuli, and in consequence it lessens the heart's action. By so doing, we directly lessen the quantity and quality of the blood. The reactive effect of bleeding is transient, and sometimes the nature of a disease is such, that a "reaction"
Take place, which is indicated by an oppressed pulse and general glow of the stature. This reaction is frequently so powerful that it requires peculiar attention to subdue the pulse to its natural state.

In the enjoyment of good health, the blood vessels are in a certain state of tension, by which the tone of the system is kept up. Bleeding most generally relieves the tension of the blood vessels, and debility ensues, under these circumstances.
Hence, burning Blood is accidentally sedative.

The train of symptoms attending loss of Blood are generally uniform. After a certain amount has been extracted, a slight degree of Dizziness is felt, sometimes a ringing in the Ears. The Respiration is more or less hurried. The Pulse becomes infected. The Face pale and moist with perspiration, and there is more or less sickness at the Stomach, and sometimes vomiting. These effects continue.
Indicate the impairment of the Brain, resulting from the extraction of its natural and needful stimulus, and in consequence of this condition of the system, Respiration suffers to a greater or less extent. These effects differ in some individuals and under some circumstances, according to climate, and to many causes, which have a tendency to impair or improve the health of Plants.

With regard to the
Posture, most favorable to produce the useful effect by bleeding, I think the erect position is preferable, for when the patient is in this posture, gravitation lessens the congested brain. And as we approach syncope, much sooner, we also lessen the tension of blood vessels. And the action of the heart, much sooner than we could in a horizontal position.

I equally prefer a large orifice to a small one, because if we bleed from a small orifice,
The Blood dribbles away slowly, and the system can adopt itself to the change, and we make less impression upon the distal. But when we bleed from a large office we attract the Blood so fast, that the vitality of the system is subdued much sooner, for the same reason. Arteriotomy will produce an effect sooner than Venesection, because it is a direct drain upon the circulating mass.

The indications for Blood Letting are very...
Murmurs, and of much importance to the old physician as well as the young. In an opinion very much by Physicia, by the quality of the pulse, by the importance of the organ affected, by the intensity of the inflammation in what manner, it may be measured, by the period or stage of the disease, by the age and sex and general condition of the patient, and frequently by the ordinary character and course of the disease. When inflammation happens to be, to
Accompany an Epidemic Disorder. It is not one of these circumstances alone, but several of them, that we have to take into account in most cases. And what I have now to say must needs be very general.

By Pyrexia, we mean, that is, and 
The febrile symptom, yet we must know whether the Pyrexia is brought about by inflammation or not. And if not, we generally resort to other means of reducing the Pyrexia. It is often the case that we have
A high degree of Pyrexia, without any inflammation as in the case of an Acute Fit. The reaction producing Pyrexia in a high degree, yet we do not often bleed in such cases, in fact never unless some important organ is involved by the amount of Congestion. But when this is the case, it is very important to perform the operation and should not be omitted. Congestion and the importance of the organ affected are additional indications. Pyrexia administers us
To search after other indications, and confirms us, that blood letting is right and should be performed if they are to be found. A considerable amount of fever may arise from local inflammation, and yet the known course of the disease, or the nature of the part affected, may render the abstraction of blood unnecessary, and therefore improper. The quality of the pulse more often directs us in our judgment, although we are by no means to be
Wholly directed by this, but it requires practice, and an intelligent mind to appreciate the information. And to obtain the knowledge we should have, and which is requisite to forming a good judgment of the necessity of the blood letting.

We should understand the qualities of the Pulse, and the qualities we most attend to are, its quickness, frequency, regularity, fullness, and force, it is necessary that we should know the number of beats the heart habitually makes in health.
This varies much in different persons, the average number of pulsations, in a healthy adult, are from twenty to twenty-five per minute. But there are persons who when they are quite well, have a much higher or lower pulse than the above standard. Irregularity of the pulse is a condition which should be closely noticed, for it is of great importance. And all of meaning, it is of great importance to the practitioners and the causes of it should be attended to it.
May be caused by disease of the heart, by organic disease of the heart, by simple disorder of the stomach, or it may be, merely the result of debility, and the prelude to the complete stoppage of the action of the heart, from asthma. Now importanter than it must be to attend to each of these indications, and to know whether it arises from disease of the brain, of the heart, of the stomach, or by asthma. Another important quality of the pulse is what authors term the hard
Pulse, it is a Pulse which is very hard of Compassion. That is, when you place your finger on an artery, the blood does not seem to meet with any resistance, when it comes to the finger, or you cannot scarcely abolish the pulsation. Sometimes it is found to strike a large portion of the finger at the same time, when we say, the pulse is large or full, as well as hard, it sometimes strikes a very narrow portion of the finger, it is then compared to a Thready.
If at the same time, it is hard, such a pulse is described as a Wiry Pulse, but it requires an educated finger to discriminate between a hard and a Wiry Pulse, or some persons may sum to attain the "Facius Undictus."

Now an i to make this Hard Pulse, a soft one, is a question, which we should always be able to answer. And it is one which we can answer, if it is not caused by a disease of the Heart, Stomach or Brain.
The answer is, by Blood Letting, avoided; we see the Patient in time, for the time for Blood Letting may have passed. In case of Inflammation if Separation has commenced, it is of no importance as a general rule. But sometimes it is an advantage in such cases. But the Pulse is most usually Full and Hard, in acute Inflammation, and it is in acute Inflammation, the Patient will bear general Bleeding better than at any other time. And thus we can...
Often determine whether or not some local pain is caused by inflammation or not, by placing the patient in the erect posture, and opening a vein, for if the blood loss is much blood, you may be assured that inflammation is present. When we bleed in acute inflammation of an important organ, we endeavor to effect our purpose as quickly as possible. And with as little expenditure of vital fluid as possible.
pallid to say how much blood we should take to do this. But we should always bleed for effect, that is we should bleed from a large orifice. As I have before said, until the pain is mitigated, until inspiration becomes easier and deeper, or in affections of the brain, the patient emerges from a state of stupor or delirium. This is the case you may be sure that you are sight in bleeding. But you must keep firm
Take finger upon your patient's wrist, and hold until symptoms of impending syncope appear. Then, gradually raise the arm, and wait a few minutes, and repeat the bleeding. If the symptoms fail to disappear, either it may be necessary to open a vein in each arm.