AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Cholera Infantum

SUBMITTED TO THE
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY
OF THE
University of Nashville,
FOR THE DEGREE OF
DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY
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of
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March 1857.

W. T. BERRY & CO.,
BOOKSELLERS AND STATIONERS,
NASHVILLE, TENN.
Cholera Infantum
(or Summer complaint of Infants)

Gentlemen,

In selecting a subject to base my Thesis upon in compliance with the rules and regulations of your Institution, I select the one above, not because I feel myself competent to cast any new light upon the Pathology, Symptoms or Treatment of the disease.

This disease however is peculiar to the United States, and one too; the young Practitioner of Medicine will find most troublesome to contend with, a disease too that hursrs more of our Infants to the grave than any one known in our
land. Then is there any one subject that should command the attention of the young Practitioner, before this one, certainly not. To relieve the gasping Infant at its mothers breast is a soul cheering pleasure that remain as indelibly stamped upon the hearts of the mother and father, as letters of gold engrav'd in marble rock. Nothing is more cheering to the young Physician than to approach the dying Infant in its mothers arms and feel that he can give it ease. The friends and relations are called in to see the dying Infant, draw its last breath, the Doctor comes, whilst death is whetting his bloody fangs, he steps in and says twice for thou hast gone but
but no father shall, thou goe.
The causes that give rise to this
disease are so numerous, that
I shall not enter into a minute
detail of them; moreover the lim-
ited space, and the Tory-like boun-
dries, I have to observe forbid my
doing so. If my inclination were
such, but I will have you to know
I am as willing to be restricted as
you are to restrict me, I will enume-
rate the most frequent causes, that
tend to produce this disease and
themselves to the symptoms: Diagnosis.
and Treatment,
The causes are heat of
Summer, ill-ventilated rooms. Impure
air, Dentation, Improper diet, age,
sex. clothing & c.
& c.
Symptoms.

The first and most usual symptom that indicates the approach of the disease is prostration, slight nausea, paleness of the patient, shortly after followed vomiting, diarrhoea, gastric irritability, the stools being often of a greenish or bilious appearance, then yellow sometimes watery, at other times light colored and thin. There is most always pain, febrile movement; the period at which this occurs and its degree depend on the severity of the attack.

Occasionally the disease is exceedingly violent, in fatal cases of short duration the vomiting usually continues to the end.
The vomiting, and purging are almost incessant. The stomach rejects every thing swallowed.

If the disease is not checked, prostration comes on with clammy a cool, and a skin, pale and shrunken features, and death ends the scene.

Frequently the attack is attended with febrile symptoms and the case prolonged to two or three weeks. The few cases coming under my observation since my advance to the profession of Medicine seem to have more or less fever and a duration of two to four weeks, but, always of a milder nature. The pulse is frequently small and weak.
(weak) or corded, the mouth hot,
the tongue furred, the appetite
deficient, the thirst intense, the
abdomen is not very tumid
or tender to the touch at first, but
after some weeks it frequently
becomes tympanitic, and tender,
reverse up of the lower extremities,
turning of the trunk, and crying
of the child, are very marked symp-
toms of the disease, the countenance
becomes anxious and distressed,
and is flush during the exacer-
bation and pallid in the remission.
the eyes are sunken, the skin
hangs in folds above the face
the lips are thin and dry, the
nervous system is disturbed,
the respirations vary according
to the degree of the reaction, it
rises to 40 or 50 in a minute.
At times there are spasmodic
contractions of the abdomen,
the head and abdomen hot, whilst
the extremities are cold, or natural.
in temperature, frequently cold, and
clammy, toward evening there is
fever, restlessness and pain, occasion-
ally delirium occurs, manifested
by violent toping of the head, attem-
to bite, the eyes becomes wild
and injected, the nose sharp and
pointed. In the advance stage, the
abdomen is tumbid, or taut, sunk
in. The mouth is moist and opph-
thous, or brownish red, and dry,
patches occasionally appear
upon the surface of the body, and
and a small vascular eruption on the breast, the skin sometimes assume a dull dirty hue, and the conjunctiva appears bloodshot, the emaciation is extreme at times, at length coma sets in and the scene is closed not infrequently with convulsions.

Diagnosis

It is not a difficult matter to make out a Diagnosis of this diseaede the season of the year, the age of the patient, the probability of dentition, the frequency vomiting and purging, the evacuants, diarrhoea, gushing incontinuity, are all signs pointing to the disease. It prevails to the greatest extent during the warmest weather of summer, about July and August,
Impure air being one of the most frequent causes, then good sense, and sound reasoning would teach every practitioner of Medicine, that a change in residence from the crowded rooms of cities, into pure air, would constitute the first measure to arrest the disease. This often gives so much ease to the little sufferer, that the whole family are made to rejoice in their new home, and the happy effects the fresh air has had upon the infant, the vomiting diminishes in frequency, the stools are fewer in number, and of a healthier appearance, the patient's countenance brightens, its fretfulness ceases, and the disease is partially arrested.
by the mean removal into the fresh air.

Dentition being one of the most exciting causes we must not forget to look to this, as soon as convenient, the gums should be carefully lanced, care being taken not to injure the milk teeth, as this is frequently done by the unexperienced operator, but for all this, the gums must not be neglected. Next in point of view, in the Prophylactic treatment of the disease, is the diet, should the Mother's milk disagree which is frequently the prime cause of the disease; you are not to prescribe other farinaceous articles of food, the cause is perhaps
from the too free use of the child to the breast, then restrict it, and see what effect it will produce.

Again the clothing should be looked into; the temperature of the child should be as uniform as possible, this may be done by the aid of flannel, and it acts well also as a friction to the skin, and by this means a gentle friction is kept up all over the surface, the child should also be kept from the damp air of raining and the cool foggy and dewy of the morning, the sudden change of weather is much against the arrest of this disease, care should always be taken on the part of the friends to this,
Theaputic Remedies,

When the disease is in a mild form with but little gastro intestinal mucous inflammation, with slight fever and restlessness, Simple remedies are all that is required. If the patient be removed into pure fresh air of the country, the gums be freely lanced, the diet regulated, and such other Hygienic measures have been attended to, Nature will go to work and frequently, the patient recovers with but little Medical remedies; these are important items to be observed in the treatment of this disease, should these measures fail other more active remedies must be called.
Into actions, such as the spiced syrup of Rheubarb combined with a few drops of the Camphorated tincture of Opium, will always give speedy relief. Dr. J. T. Meigs reliance greatly upon the spiced syrup of Rheubarb; it acts as an astringent and tonic.

When however the disease progresses, and vomiting, with signs of Enteritis Colitis and fever marked their appearance, the case requires other and more active remedies. To arrest vomiting is the first thing to do, the Practitioner should seek measures to do this, as this when done gives great ease to the patient.
One of the best remedies for this is minute doses of calomel rubbed up with a little white sugar, about 1/10 to 1/5 gr of calomel with one two or three grains of white sugar give one of these papers every half hour. Applying a blister over the Epigastric region, after nausea and vomiting have been arrested a few drops of Spirits of Terepentine give over one or two drops on a little Pul white sugar will most always entirely arrest the vomiting, or a solution of Camphor in sulphuric Ether repeated at short intervals seldom fails to arrest the vomiting. If the stomach be irritable from an over amount of acid a solution of lime water and sweet milk is an excellent remedy.
Dr. Cain of Charleston, South Carolina, recommend Creasote as a valuable remedy to allay vomiting and arrest purging. Professor Winston spoke very highly of its therapeutic effect in allaying the vomiting in this disease, and gave the following Recipe (to wit):

Ry. Creasote, 10 drops.

Mucil Gum Arabic 1/2 dose, 20 drops every hour, until vomiting ceases.

Dr. Condie says, "when every thing else fails, we have seldom been disappointed in removing the irritability of the stomach by the administration of the Acetate of Lead in solution" and recommend the following Recipe (to wit):

Ry. Pure Water 1/3 (Mix, and add Acetate of Lead 5 gr. give a teaspoon Acid acetic imp. 5 m full, White sugar 3 E.)
give a teaspoonful every hour until vomiting is arrested, this he says
seldom fails in the course of a few
hours to arrest the vomiting.
As soon as irritability of the stomach
is quieted, so as to allow of the
administration of other medicines
Balsam, Acetate of Lead and Spec-
cacccansah should be resorted to
as the most efficient remedy to
affect a permanent cure, I would
make a powder or pill, thus,
R. Balsam 1 qo
O. Chalk 8 qo
Pul Specacccansah 1 qo
Acetate Lead 4 qo
Pul Opium 1 qo
Make 6 paper or
pills, one every two to three hours
The Hydrargyrum concept, is an excellent mode of administering Mercury in this disease, and Professor Winson give the following Recipe (to wit):

R. Hydrargyrum concept, 8 gns
Doves powder 5 gns
Nitrate of Silver 1 gn

Rrubbed together

Make 6 pills give one three times per day. I esteem this prescription as one of the best known in the Materia Medica. Dr. Wood of Philadelphia recommend in this disease, the Mercurial and laxative plan collectively to be adopted, alternating them, thus give the Mercury one day and the syrup of Rhubarb the next, I think this an excellent mode.
Mercury is undoubtedly one of the best remedies we have for this disease, and I know of no form of the disease but what Mercury compounds or some, one of its compounds, could be used in. Although it is not every time the best to use it where the fibrin of the blood becomes diminished by a debilitated condition of the patient it must not to be used, it should not be carried to Extremities neither.

Mercury or some one of its compounds are valuable medicines in most of Infantile diseases, it is taken freer having no bad odor, or taste the little patient readily swallows it down, often times it has been given, too freely on this account...
The tepid bath is an excellent application in this disease one too, too often neglected, one easy to be given, and perfectly harmless, one that every mother can apply.

Astringents are not much called for in the beginning of this disease, good effect, it derived from...
the administration of small doses of Rheubarb Specacuanah and Dr. O'kalti, through their astringent properties, even in the first stage of the disease. In the latter stage or chronic form of the disease, we find astringent, valuable remedies, such, for instance as the Acetate of Lead, Prepaid O'kalti, and Carabaoge, Citro-gall, Kino, Catechu, an Ratanaya, are highly extolled by various writers. Dr. J. F. Meigs speaks very highly of the Kramerius' Tincture, and gives a Recipe (to wit) 

R, Tinct Ratanaya, 2 z.

Tinct Opium 12 grs.

Lyse Jingibe - 1 z.

Water 14 z.

Mix give a teaspoonful, four or five times in the day.
Dr. Condie was very much in favor of the Acetate of Lead as an astringent. I have seen the Carbon Ligni, common char coal, have a good effect in the chronic form, more particular when the faces be very offensive, I would give the follow in some, syrup or other Mucilage, Gum Arabic would be an excellent vehicle, to administered in,

R. Carbon Ligni, 1/2

Pul. Rheubarb, 2 scruples

Pul. Specramani 6 qr

Exs. Hyoscyamus, 2.

Make 12 paper (or pills) give one three time per day, until the offensive smell is changed,

I have these Gentlemen flowed off what Steam, I have in my
Boiler upon the subject of Cholera, Infantium, and submit the same to your critic: eye, hoping however you will all make allowances for the imperfect manner in which I have spoken of the disease.