AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Inflammation.

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Inflammation

Inflammation may be defined to be increased heat, redness, pain, and swelling with a change of function in the part affected; without stopping to make a lucid exposition of the signs of inflammation, I shall simply remark that the heat and redness are the result of a superabundance of arterial blood in the affected part, heard by the distention of the blood vessels, pressing upon the nerves, as they are contained in the same sheaths with the arteries and veins. Swelling is caused by the effusion of serous fluid. Upon referring to the standard authorities I find that there are various theories in relation to inflammation and hence...
I find myself compelled to think for myself, but perhaps it is better for me to know, than to be driven to reflection on this for the first time, when I shall be called to a fellow man labouring under inflammation of the brain, when every moment of time will be precious.

I shall content myself by noticing in a very brief manner inflammation in its usual division, of acute and chronic, and when in them I shall confine myself to the consideration of its nature and treatment.

Then what is the ultimate cause of inflammation is it located in the capillary system or in the nervous system or in both?
I can understand that an impression being made upon the capillaries that impression might be extended to the heart and arteries generally and that more blood would be sent to every part of the system from the greater frequency of the heart's action and that an impression being made upon the nervous system the same excited action might be given to the heart through the influence which the nervous system exercised over every part of the body. Now the heart acting the part of a pump (according to Simon's general pathology p. 50) I can understand how there might be an inflammatory condition of the system.
generally — but that would not explain how a single part became specially affected, and it seems to me that there must be some cause located in the inflamed part itself to cause an undue quantity of blood to flow to that particular part, and this cause is located in the organic cells this living tissue or organic cell, which in its normal condition attracts out of the neighbouring blood vessels, the material necessary for its own growth, and nourishment, should its vitality become interfered with; by injury, poison, heat, cold, or any other cause of disease, attracts a larger quantity of arterial blood.
and this with nervous disturbance constitute inflammation. This change of cellular action lays the foundation for exciting the secretions in inflammatory disease. Having said this much upon the nature of inflammation, I shall pass directly to the consideration of acute inflammation.

In the acute variety of inflammation the disease, is very rapid in its progress and violent in its action and attended by fever. Of the inflammations involves a considerable extent of surface or is located in a vital part or an irritable constitution. The first thing that occurs in the inflamed part is increased circulation with more than the normal quantity of
blood in the capillaries and blood vessels. Swell is hereby caused into the interstices of the affected part. Should the inflammation, not be arrested at this point the blood becomes stagnated, and the red globules begin to adhere to each other and to the sides of the walls of the capillaries constituting the second stage of inflammation and of the disease continues on, the staves are broken down, and disorganized at the point where the inflammation is most intense and pus is formed out of the effused lymph. We now have the subject of inflammation before us fairly; we have seen the steps by which it makes its inroads upon the
System and are now prepared to enter upon the treatment, in an intangible manner for I think that all will admit that if we can prevent these steps the above results or terminations can never take place and to their prevention I now address my treatment.

The first remedy in point of importance in acute inflammation is general blood-taking and without entering into the discriminations which Williams in his precepts of medicines makes, I will barely remark that in my opinion as a general thing the bleeding should be early and in a sufficient quantity to make an impression on the system. This may be followed
by local bloodletting if necessary, local bleeding is preferable when the
inflammatory action is not high, when the powers of the system are low.

When the inflammatory action on the part, has been fully established,
and there would be no benefit from a general bloodletting, and when
veterum old age forbid it, and this
again by the use of cold or hot
properly applied, or the application
of blister, after the circulation has
been reduced, according to the seat
of inflammation and the organ
involved) In conjunction with
the above I would make the
use of mercury, (i.e.) what I
would call a purgative use of it, by
which I wish to be understood
as using it for the purpose
of equalising the circulation, rectifying the secretions and fitting the secreting organs in the discharge of their proper functions, all of which I should desire to be short of salvation. In connection with all this, and that before the system had test the impression made on it by the first blinding, it would make full use of the veratum vinca or the tincture of the of American balsam as prepared by Dr. Norwood of S.C. And here I must rely upon medical periodicals, for my information as to the value of this article, together with the opinion of my preceptor, who informs me that he has used the veratum, for two
years and a half with entire satisfaction. In the sixth number of the seventh volume of the Charleston medical Journal there is quite an extended synopsis of this remedy given by Norwood himself. I am aware that there are now claims for new remedies than are generally realized, but that verdict will control the action of the heart and arteries where the stomach will tolerate it in a sufficient dose. There is no doubt this I will take as a settled question. Now it is seen how this remedy may be applied to arrest the first step of inflammation. We have seen in acute inflammation increased action of the heart and arteries sending an undue quantity of blood through every part of the system.
in a given time and especially in
the inflamed part now by
reducing the action of the heart and
vitalis to their natural standards
or below it we give the inflamed
part an opportunity to adjust itself
of the undue quantity of blood thereby
preventing the effusion of sound tissue
being accomplished no stagnation of
blood in the affected part can
take place. It does seem to me
from this view of the subject
that venousure is one of our
most efficient remedies in
inflammation I do cannot dismiss
this article without noticing its
almost specific action in
inflammation of the lungs
or pneumonic especially the
typhoid variety here it
accomplishes the very thing we want not only bringing down the action of the heart and arteries - but acting specifically upon the lungs in being one very best expedient. I shall close the treatment of this variety of inflammation by making such use of narcotics when indicated as to allay pain and nervous irritation. Upon the chronic variety of inflammation I have but little to say. As the word implies, it is of such a character as to continue long in the system and of such a grade as the system bear for a long time. This would sum to convey the idea that this character of inflammation is kept up by the continued action...
of some local cause or by some constitutional condition of the system. Perhaps in the majority of cases when the manifestation of the disease is local it is the result of some constitutional condition of the system. Hence if I am right we must insist upon the treatment of chronic inflammation with a third fold condition constantly before our minds eye i.e. when it is local as local but kept up by some constitutional cause and 3rdly where the disease is strictly constitutional.

The first is treated by local applications alone the second by both local and constitutional and the third variety by
The local treatment consists in local bleeding followed by cold or astringents as solution of album, arsenate of lead nitrate of silver nitrate in solution or the solid form which in some instances may be followed by pressed. But what counter irritation stands permanent in the treatment of chronic inflammation especially those that produce suppuration acts to the constitutional treatment it should be governed by the condition of the system if the patient was in an anemic condition it would give iron in some of its preparations or iron by hydrogen.
I consider the best) with vegetable
tonic as the extract of quinquam
of the liver and secretions were
generally at fault I would give
mancy. Guarding against
Salvation) if the kidneys are
at fault I should address my
attention to them &c
But should the disease be located
the assimilative cellular or ultimate
tissue of the system I should
be induced from what I have seen
in print and have been to try
to make a thorough treat of
the compound solution of iodine
as it is our most efficient and
and thorough attempt especially
where the ultimate cellular tissue
is involved &c