AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Typhoid Fever.

SUBMITTED TO THE
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY
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FOR THE DEGREE OF
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OF
Alabama

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Living as I do in our Italy-like climate in the southern portion of our Confederacy, where malaria has been is and will be through countless years an invincible agent of disease, it will doubtless surprise you, Gentlemen, who compose the faculty of the Nashville Medical School, that I should select the above subject upon which to put my inaugural dissertation. But Gentlemen, Syphrid Fever has for a few years past been lurking through our country in search of victims and wherever the citadel of health promises most security from the blighting influence of Malaria, that therefore dreaded agent which like Sirocco’s deadly blast has swept away our sunny land and left effects frightful in severity—its encroach.
A disease, in itself so invisible an agent of death, that with a stealthy and noiseless march has demolished not only our villages and depopulated our towns, but is making every quarter of the habitable globe from the cold and ice-bound regions of North, to the sultry Southern limits, its deadly abode.

A disease insidiously teachest, often times disguised, and flattering to victims ever in the very portals of death. A disease not only in our midst, but which threatens, as our material influences disappear, to invade our community, to destroy the lives of our citizens and to fight with its deadly venom forever the sacred place of the domestic circle.

Is this, or therefore, one of the most important subjects that could be presented to friends?
A theme that has not only attracted for years the attention of the medical profession, but which mars the interests, invades the safety and involves the lives of an overwhelming populace. A fever so well characterized by the extensive observations of Louis, Cheval, Pest and others that its symptoms will now no longer attract wonder and its proved that its lessons are somehow veiled in mystery and its causes are wisely appreciated. Now exultingly then should we eulogize the names of those medical heroes who with scientific arms crushed this superstructure, reared by Monsieur Broussais upon which many with dazzling vision and misdirected judgment gazed, while
Thousands knelt in blind adoration. And 'tis to the subsequent efforts of Siris that chiefly belongs the praise. 'Twas his wise conclusions which so advanced and favored the study of this disease. That we have now to complete and glories a description of this fever and 'twas him that proved, to subsequent pathological, that his story is not fabled legend, is no Chronicle of plots or doubtless authenticity, but hundreds of tongues in our own happy land can give it instance and the brightest pages of literary, as well as medical history, have caught but from his glorious record. In our admiration of his observations and his talents
is deposited the monument of his greatness. The qualities of his own mind formed the bases upon which he reared a splendid and beautiful superstructure. The aspirations of his very soul told him that man was capable of more intellectual enjoyment than he possessed. He shook off the trammels, we may say, of his obscurity, he shattered in pieces the fetters, which hampered his mind and trampled in the dust doctrines that are ever ready to enslave the thoughts. Yes Germany may boast of her Wagner, England of her illustrious Warram and I pride America of her Smith or her —
Jackson, but their productions are fragmentary and incomplete. Compared with the labors of Louis, whose ambitions turned not for glory, not for the ruling breath which encircles the conquerors brow, but with fervor glowed for unbiased and intellectual freedom; so that he might undermine the pillars of disease and ameliorate the condition of suffering humanity. He grasped not for fame, but he worked the sceptre of his mind in his heroic attempts to shield, protect and ameliorate the condition of his Countrymen. His efforts were not confined to one object.
Dr. Before time opened many a path
According where the laurel highest moves
How search of needle begun.
Gentlemen, in presenting to you
Consideration the symptoms and
Treatment of this affection, I
deem it fit to add, that it has
never prevailed in our imme-
cdiate neighborhood could have
last, although it has prevailed
in other portions of Indiana as
well as the adjoining counties:
Nor were we visited, as hitherto,
with our usual midsummatic
fevers. Epidemic was generally
prevalent during the months
of April, May, June and July,
Some attacks accompanied
with fevers. But in the fouth
of August, I was called to be
Have of Mrs. Swey and upon my arrival was informed that she was taken three days previous with a chill, followed by fever, loss of appetite and general languor; at present not very sick, neither strictly confined to bed—her mistress thinks it is worm fever. In a few moments the patient was presented to me, wearing an aspect of indifference, with eyelids drooped and manifesting much muscular debility. Upon examination, there was an abnormal heat over the surface, pulse 137, quick and compressible; tongue slightly frieved, red, printed and tumid; persisting headache, somnolency and troubled hearing—some
mental confusion when Cornell,
underneat the epigastic
and right iliac region. In ad-
dition, I was informed by Mrs.
Seara, that the discharged from
her convulsions were skin, but not the
frequent and that I found her
in the same condition, she had
been in from the date of her
attack, as she had not herself
been able to detect the slightest
remission in her fever, although
she had watched day and
night for an opportunity to
administer quinine. Such was
the characteristics of eight case
of this disease, had occurred among
the negroes at this place. Two
of the white family however were
affected, one of whom there were
additional symptoms, making
It a better developed case of this fever, than I ever witnessed at the North, where I have seen a number of cases. This case presented itself, in D. L. a lad at 13; of a nervous temperament, rather rugged constitution and very indisposed. On the day after he was taken, I visited him and learned that he had a chill the morning before, which lasted during the night, but that during the earlier part of the morning of the day I visited him, the family thought that he was clear of fever and gave him eight or ten grains of quinine and had administered calomel the night before. At three o'clock in the afternoon I saw him restless indeed.
delirious, muttering pitiably unintelligible words with trembling lips and fingers incessantly at work, over and over picking at the bed clothes or grasping in apparent agony at imaginary objects—pulse 146—acid heat over the chest, features pinched and excessive underclothes along either side of the spine, joints full, confined and manifesting underclothes, as in the other cases. The rose colored eruption was well established over the chest on the 6th day, to which I called the attention of those present. I was unable to see his tongue, except the point, for three days; so fruitless were his efforts to pretend it; but it was, as it were, involuntarily with-
He was on the thirty-third day
his back was completely covered with bed sores, amounting to twenty-nine in number.
The second white case that occurred, was a sister of the last mentioned above a few. Though she was listless, languid and indisposed to muscular exertion; yet she never was confined to bed and passed through the attack without taking medicine or surrendering to the disease.
This gives an idea of cases of this fever, that occurred in this place, from the fourth of August, up to the twenty-seventh of October. There has doubtless been other cases since. One other person in the neighborhood died from this disease, two of whom
Were white and red sun daily
visitors to Mrs. Tawney's. They
had the rose colored eruption,
slight itchings of the Tendon,
but no delirium. This made
thirteen cases in all. The
duration of the attack rising
from nineteen to forty-four
days.

Treatment — As regards this,
I believe, it is the general cons-
ceived opinion of those who have
seen this disease, that it
very seldom gives a termination
in health and I therefore am
of the opinion, that all
remedial agencies that are of
an active nature are more
apt to render complications
in this fever troublesome, than
do prevent them and that
Even too much attention in the way of pursuing results itself in bad consequences. Ulceration is frequently aggravated by schemes, used by friends to elicit something rational from the tortured patient and, oftentimes, when emerging as if it were from the very portal of the grave, has the subduing spirit of the frail body been depressed forever by the discouraging expressions inadvertently dropped.

The plan I pursued with these cases, was in the first place, to dry cup them freely on both sides of the spine and to rubbly them over the cervical vertebrae every day until the pain in the head
closed. I neither apply the scarificator or blisters along the spine, for fear of bed sores, which add much to the sufferings of a weary and bedridden patient. I sacrifice and cover freely over the tender portions of the bowels for which I search day after day and order warm poultices to be applied, consisting of much salt, Cayenne pepper and chlor-riode potassium, also cold applications to the head. The patient to be occasionally sponged with salt and water and the room to be kept dark, but well ventilated.

One other treatment is rather upon the expectant plan and spring from Dr. Stephen's theory, being...
In fact a mere modification of his prescription. It consists of

- Bicarb Ptes 3
- Sup Carb Soda 2
- Nitric Potass 2
- Chlorido Sodium 1
- Aqua Distillata 30 3

Of this a tablespoonful is taken every four hours. In ten or twelve days or as soon as the tongue becomes dry, I commence the administration of the terebinthina in ten or fifteen drop doses, between the times of giving the above. If the bowels are to be moved, I recommend enema of cold slupperry-Hea mucilage or a few grains of colyceith. If the discharges are on the contrary too frequent I give the Aetis Rambi in 3 gr doses in distilled water, slightly acidulated with vinegar and three times the
quantity by enema to assist its internal exhibition if required. The saline solution is suspended when the lead has to be used, nor should the latter be given until three or four hours after the exhibition of the former. This, with caution in regulating as to their diet and drinks, constitutes the treatment which has succeeded so well that of the thirteen cases but one died and that was the last No. 13, who lived until the 47th day and with exceptions of the expectoritie required no treatment. He died suddenly as if from spasm of the diaphragm.

Gentlemen—when I adopted this course, it was not more with the purpose of rendering their obedience to Dr. Stephen's theory, than
with a view to avoid an active treatment, which has been notably unsuccessful in the hands of our most skillful and reliable physicians. The remarkable success of a homeopathist of Mobile, will doubtless convince many of our scientific men of that place, that typhoid fever will do better without any treatmens than with an active one; since his practice the present year will be with at least seven, and that he treated all developed cases of this affection. I think the concurrent testimony of the most reliable physicians of that city, bears sufficient evidence.

With much respect, gentlemen, I submit myself to your kind generosity.

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