AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Typhoid Fever
SUBMITTED TO THE
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BY
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OF
Georgin

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Typhoid Fever

This is a continued fever characterized by great prostration of strength, and may continue a few days only, or extend to many weeks. The forms under which it has been seen are so various, that it has never been decided whether they are several distinct varieties or not. And there is much doubt whether it is, or is not contagious. I'll not controvert with any who may entertain a different opinion; some writers have described typhoid fever prevailing as a general epidemic and depending on some unknown cause. Others pronounce
In the whole, the effect of contagion; 
Typhoid fever is not epidemic, it 
is confined to certain neighborhoods 
or plantations. Typhoid fever is not 
contagious in South West Georgia 
and I doubt it else where. Typhoid 
fever cannot be carried from place 
To place by infected persons. 
Whatever the cause of this disease 
may be, it attaches itself to pla 
ces and is very slowly removed, 
by a free exposure to air and 
light. Houses have been abandon 
for weeks, with open doors, furnitu 
re exposed to sun, and rain, and 
yet a person may sleep a night 
in it. will contract the disease, 
The house is still infected. 
Cause of Typhoid fever.
It is a disease produced by human effluvia. This fever appears spontaneously. It attacks the youthful, healthy and robust, in preference to the diseased, the immature of the public. Youth and vigor are its chosen victims, and it is a mistake to think that health can delay its attack.

The cause of Typhoid, bilious, remitent, fevers, stand opposed to each other. Typhoid fever arises from a poison generated in human bodies. It attacks the mature, the healthy, and the vigorous, leaving unharmed the child, the invalid, and the aged. It is the scourge of crowds, in houses, in jails, in ships and in cities. And when Typhoid fever becomes formidable,
it will always be found to have originated at a point on which numerous persons had been concentrated for the purposes of rest and sleep. This fact, so important to be known, cannot be placed on evidences too clear, for it is in our power to hinder the origin, and to arrest the progress of this formidable disease. It is obvious that the colored population in our countries, and the poor in all countries are most subject to Syphilis, not that they are unprovided for with the comforts of life, but that their habitation are too densely peopled.

How then is the virus of Syphilis fever produced, I have stated that it is owing to, too many
persons crowded or sleeping in too small a house or space. It is conced
that cases are often met with, in which the application of this rule
cannot be easily seen. These cases are almost always of a mild grade, they
are met with by every practitioner and are called by various names by
according to their particular symptoms. Each physician will adopt his own
name, hectic fever, continued fever, inflammatory fever, typhoid fever, or something of the kind, and in two or three
weeks the fever subsides without extending to others. These cases never
originate in persons residing alone and I think they are produced by a
cause which operate equally on others but finding in them a susceptibility
ability to the disease produces no effect.

Symptoms of Typhoid fever

There are certain traits upon which nearly all writers have agreed as being usually characteristic of Typhoid fever. In the first place there is always more or less prostration with an impairment of the functions of the nervous system, and a fever which continues, but variable in its degree. In the vast majority of cases there is more or less diarrhea generally of an obstinate, but passive character, and its most constant, pathological appearances have been found to be those which refer to the abdominal viscera, there being very uniformly some special alteration in the follicles.
Studding principally the mucous mem-
brane of the mesenteric portion of
the intestinal canal, known as the
glands of Peyer. Most of the
symptoms signify a debilitated state
of the mind and body, the patient
is pale and easily fatigued, and
has great listlessness and sometimes
limpness; the patient is very unste-
dy in his movement. On enquiry it
will be found that his bowels are
irregular, sometimes being affected
with diarrhoea, but in other cases
with constiveness. His tongue along
its centre, will be found covered
with a thin white film, and tremble
when it is attempted to be shown:
head ache, abdominal tumid and tender,
running at the eyes and nostrils,
paleness of the skin, and a copious discharge of lymphatic urine were not to be distinguished from this common disorder. Vexatious pains in various parts of the body, cephalalgia, pain in the back, loins and extremities, men in his delirium, vigilence, somnolence, dulness of hearing, impaired vision, sounds of the muscles and occasionally subsicetus tendinum. Together with prostration of muscular power, pulse accelerated, the average mean of the pulse according to the accurate observation of Dr. Flint is 95 7/13, and if the pulse exceeds 115 except for a transient period that the case is of dangerous severity, and the danger increases in more than geometrical ratio if it soars above this
point. This is more or less heat of the surface, which varies from a little above the natural warmth to what is known as biting heat, but we cannot attach much importance to many of these symptoms because we find some of them in most all other diseases.

The singular forms of Typhoid fever which have prevailed of late years in different sections of the United States exhibit to the eye of the medical philosopher the very wide difference of expression it may assume—yea, and I might add, the very singular contrariety of treatment will also furnish them an interesting theme for contemplation.
Treatment of Typhoid Fever

In a disease so important, so widely diffused and universally known as Typhoid Fever, it is painful to be obliged to say, that there is no established mode of treatment. Remedies the most opposite in their nature, and effect, are recommended with equal confidence, and I may say with equal authority. But I am satisfied that there is a preference due to a certain mode of treatment, and I will recommend it, without claiming for it, any originality. We are never to forget that Typhoid Fever is a disease of such obstinacy, that it will often keep its own course, in spite of all our efforts. Do not be in too
much hast, to give your remedy. Having made up your opinion as to the nature of the case, you will select your remedy according to the present symptoms and stage of the disease. Blood letting and cathartics have been the British practice, since the days of Agylin, but I object to the practice.

The remedy I would recommend is an emetic. This may be of Tartar emetic or ipecacuanha. This remedy is called for, when there is great sickness at the stomach, with heat and fever. This remedy should be given the first week of the disease. The emetic should be prompt; from fifteen to twenty grains of ipecac in one drachm of cold water, followed in ten
minutes by half a pint of cold water if the patient can take it, if not a cup of tea; the enemis is to procure a free evacuation of the contents of the stomach at once and to lessen the action of the remedy on the bowels as a cathartic. When the contents of the stomach seem to be freely discharged, give a dose of laudanum, if the patient is not much exhausted give twenty drops; if the laudanum is thrown up, give a second dose.

Cathartics should be mentioned, but ought to be used with full as much caution as emetics, and in the most cases they are altogether unneeded for, and improper. Scrofula is a common symptom.
of this disease and seldom yields to cathartic medicines. I would recommend five grains of colostrum, followed by a dose of castor oil, when there is vomiting and considerable heaving. Otherwise, I would withhold them.

Opium is one of the great remedies in this disease, if emetics operate with violence, or operate as cathartics, give a grain or two of opium, greater or smaller doses may be given according to the urgency of the symptoms. Opium is a leading article, and if attacked suddenly, with delirium or coma, with rapid pulse, or heavy breathing, give opium, give two grains at first, and one grain afterward, two or three times a day, according to circumstances. It is in
To still the agitation, support the patient, and hinder a fatal termination of the case. When the patient is torpid, the pulse low, and the hands and feet cool, with some increase of fever and restlessness at night, give Dover's powder, say ten grains at night in a little water, in bad cases, repeat the remedy in eight or ten hours, but if the bowels are disorderd, or the powder causes vomiting, give twenty drops of laudanum in stead of the powder.

Niter is a cooling remedy, beneficial in this low protracted fever. It may be given in doses of from five to ten grains in water, four or six times a day. This medicine should also be noticed, and if it
operate on the bowels check it with Laudanum. The Niter and Tartar emetic might be combined. The power we have of lessening the heat on the surface of persons in typhoid fever is one valuable remedy. This we accomplish at pleasure, by the application of cold water or cold air. Patient, in this fever nearly complain of heat. They are insensible, and whether they are too hot or too cool, are to be judged of by the attendant. If the hands and feet are cold it will be premature to apply cold in any form. But during a part of every day, the heat will be found to be diffused over the whole body and then it is proper to moderate
it by artificial means and this may be made by cold towels to
the head, face, hands, and feet, or to the limbs and even over the
whole body. This application should be made when the fever
is at its height, and continue until the heat is reduced. The
pulse can be in a great degree controlled by this means; it is
common to apply the cold water, from fifteen minutes to half hour
at a time, and once or twice a day is often enough to use it,
and this remedy may be used from day to day as long as thought
necessary. The cold water will not
hinder the return of the fever
however cold the patient may be
made. This like other remedies, in this disease, should be used with sound discretion.

Spirit of Turpentine, is highly recommended by some of our able practitioners. Bowling recommends the following, recipe: Two and a half ounces, gum arabic; half ounce compound Spirit of Lavender and one drachm, Spirit of Turpentine ming well, dose one teaspoonful every three hours or not so often.

Cleanliness should be strictly observed. Fresh air is also indispensable. The clothing of the patient should be changed daily. A free ventilation of the apartment of the sick, is also indispensable. This is to be attended to even in winter.
If the patient's bowels are disordered he will be thirsty, but he will forget sometimes to ask for water, and a reasonable portion of cold water should be offered to him, unless in extremely weak conditions brandy should be combined. In the sinking stage of typhus, give brandy, two tablespoonsful is a dose. Veratrum Veride is a very popular remedy, but should be used with discretion, it lessens the action of the heart. I have used it in one case only, with good effect. I would recommend but few remedies in this formidable disease, and those that I have mentioned are my favorites. Though a great many others are recommended with equal force, opinion
and Spirit of Inspiration are our shield and anchor.

Daniel Edward Lee