An essay on inflammation. Finally submitted to the President, Board of Trustees and Medical Faculty of the University of Nashville, for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, by Albert Thaddeus Dillard of Florida, January the 30th, 1857.
The following pages with all the imperfections that may present themselves, is dedicated to the Medical Faculty of the University of Nashville, both, as a token of my highest-regards as gentlemen and instructors, and as a truly-devoting on the student, trusting all inaccuracies may the over-looked, it is submitted.
Inflammation

is chosen

as the subject of my Thesis because

of the frequency of its occurrence,

and a subject calling on the

Physician as well as the Surgeon,

and as yet it is a theme which

holds Physicians, and avowed by

Theorists in art. The mind of

every Physician has pondered upon it,

and every Theorist has gone a-

round in the wide, wide and

inviting field of inflammating

and each have returned and

told their trophies at the feet

of the Medical altar, there to

drink applause and there sink

into insignificance. Theories

have thus risen and fallen
in a state, succumbing for past hundreds of years, each having the
support of warm and able
volaties. Well might the medi-
cal man be strong to say in-
to this devastating yet beauti-
ful phenomenon. What has
greater claims to the assiduous
investigation of the medical
world than this? For, there is no
disease that claims man as
its sort of destruction, that is
not attended by inflammation,
with "Touch me, and I shall go light to
originate to a destructive focus.
Inflammation is truly a field
abounding in lances and wreaths.
How many noble minds have
gone into it, upon the highest peaks
and comest bollups and thine
laboured hand and tongs to
extract from their hidden
creases true theories to place
before the investigating eye
of a critical world. But ah!
soon some brighter star comes
in train, and with its light
eclipses our neighbours great
and only luster; and thus
they after being fades away,
as do the flowers of summer;
before the withering blasts of
winter, and we of the present
age can only take in turn
all that has then "accumula-
ted out of the weeks of former
days" and derive there-
from the test grown.
Points, combine them together and thus assume a thing more probably true.

Inflammation is a disease of the capillary system.

It behoves one at this point to give some of the most prominent theories before the medical profession. In the first place, I shall mention that of Boerhove, which is old, yet not entirely overthrown by the investigation of more modern times. And in as much there are truths insusceptible, even in this old thing, to the advancement of the nineteenth century, which supposes that inflammation consist essentially in
an obstructed state of the capillaries of the affected part, produced by some morbid tension of the blood, or by the entrance of acid globules of blood, into vessels not fitted for their conveyance. This thing exists, on the belief that the pungent ions particles are remarkably complicated in their structure, to wit, each and one consisting of six ions, and each serum of as many sympathies. For the conveyance of which, three kinds of tubules were imagined, as channels of communication between the arteries and veins, and by these different structures of
The circulating mass, getting in to a wrong vessel, might easily produce inflammation, by the obstruction of the canal.

Cullen conceived the idea that inflammation was merely a spasmodic contraction of the small vessels, interrupting the passage of the blood. This arrest, he supposes, to be sometimes the effect of direct action; and he imagined, moreover, that there was frequently a peculiar condition, which received from him the name 'pathological catarrh,' and which he thinks is productive of inflammation.

Another was that ad-
various by Bacon, an Nation
who maintained the belief
that inflammation invariably results from "turgidness,
congestion, attended to
more or less ability of the
affected parts." This step in
the process is dilatation of
the capillaries, which allows
them to be anormally distended by the passage of the blood
through them in undue
proportions, and to this in-
creased quantity of blood, we
ascribe "pain, heat, swelling
and redness," which are al-
ways more distinctly marked,
in proportion to the dilatation
of the minute arteries and
pains, the violence of the exci-
ing cause; and the natural
vasculosity of the part affected.
Since the time of Baco, the
theory of diminished power
of the vessels, has been warmly
advocated by some distin-
guished pathologists. The experi-
ments of whom tend to show
that inflammation consists es-
sentially in a weakened ac-
tion of the capillary, by which
the balance between them and
the large vessels is lost, and
congestion is the result. Other
pathologists oppose these views,
and adopt the belief that
the primary cause of this dis-
 ease, consist air in increased
action of the vessel. And, right between these latter two theories, I set up my flag, deducing from the one and adding to the other, thus forming from the limited information in hand on the subject the most plausible thing. There must be an exciting cause, either direct or indirect, this cause being appli-
cable to the nerves of the part, a new or irregular action as prevalence in the action of the capillaries of the part implicated. This action is an increased one, as is evi-
dent, by invigorating the seat of the frog's foot, immediate-
After the application of the
irritation, the blood is com-
pletely driven into smaller capillaries.
This lasts for a certain length of
time, and then debility en-
creases in the capillaries themselves,
while the action in the large
vessels leading to the affected
part, is not relaxed, but seem-
ingly is increased, accompanied
by congestion of the extreme
vessels, as an inevitable conse-
quence. Being in the first
place engorged by the blood
involved to the part by the
irritation, by virtue of the aug-
mented action, it devotes up-
on them, acting as the direct
stimulus to the muscular
coats of these attenuated vessels, and next distended because of the debility into which they have been reduced by their previous distension, consequent upon the irritating cause; these changes take place in such rapid succession, that they seem to occur simultaneously. A change in the sensibility and irritability of the capillary system would seem essential to the production or existence of visceral inflammation; for when the vital properties remain in their normal condition, preternatural determination to a part, does not constitute disease, but mere flushing of the
part, as is often seen in the act of blushing, merely "dilatation", and not disease unless there be pleurisy of blood in the part, which is nothing but the entrance of more blood by the arteries than can be carried off by the veins. And congestion may occur, and the serious change in the part, take place, as manifested in erection of the penis, and mammae, in the first instance, what might be called a physiological action, and in the lasting action produce lythecism in the part. Therefore, a pathological result. Therefore we see that inflammation is the precedent of inflammation.
convenience. Thus as imitation is the first cause of inflammation, as we have before stated, the violence of the inflammation will be proportionate to the sinuosity of the imitation, which may be of various forms, agreeing in all cases, or regard to its sinuosity, with the sinuosity of its induction. The blood that is at first similar to the spot, because of the sinuosity of its induction, which must surround the delicate coats of the vessels, then this is another source of inflammation being as efficient in the maintenance of inflammation.
him as if the primitive cause
in its gradation. The thing
of Burke's original when the
mind of man could be solved
by ingenious hypothesis now
there are the effects of well
established facts. But Burke
without sudden or sudden
through this illimitable
seen, that opened out before
him. Couraged out on its
stiff and unattainable
depth, and this encircled
his name with a "hail of
glory" to the Catholic
yet come may say those are
the days in which the hypothesis was
writ in its wildest exuberance.
But now the cycles of the empire has
genealogy, and satirical induction is now the only part by which
the vaunting of science, proceeds from
incontestable in the field of
knowledge. Cullen's theory has
been entirely overthrown. No
doubt, and in fact, the Papillaries
are at first contractile. The
Cullen seems to have thought
that they remained so, for he
dried "that papillarism is
simply a spasmodic contraction of
the Papillaries." The contraction
himself, in his own words,
in these words, that this con-
traction is due to direct elasticity.
Now, any understanding of elas-
tility, is want of tone, which
is relaxation, and if my
conception the correct, is it would
be rather remaining to one's
imagination, to see how any-
thing could the contractions
and solicited at the same time.
Incessant thing may be correct as far
as it went.
In the next place, the causes
of inflammation will be no-
iced, which may be divided
into retarding and predispor-
ing. Among the predisposing
causes, (as it seems most natu-
ral to consider these first) may
be enumerated, as debilitated or
augmented condition of the vein
properties, among which, fatigue
may be mentioned. As one of
among the most prolific of this
els, this brings about the condition, as described by Cullen, 
itologic dialysis. The exciting
causes are the agents that de-
termine the flow to a partic-
ular part; the effects of this
determination being regulated
by the previous condition of
the patient. It seems un-
usual to mention all the
agents acting in this manner. Hence,
I at once turn to the symptoms
by which inflammation is recog-
nized; the principle of which
have been handed down
from the days of antiquity.
which as an enumeration of
Celsus says, "rubor et tumor
cum calore et dolore" yet neither
are unequivocal. When there is much inflammation there is always some or less disturbance of the circulatory system, which is manifested by full, hard and bounding pulse, and generally some or less disturbance of the cerebral system. There is what is termed tuffy coat on the throat after venesection. The throat is hyperperfused. The above are the principal diagnostic marks. The terminations of this disease, as outlined by most authors, are four to wit: resolution, suppuration, necrosis and mortification. To these,
some add. effusion of serum, metastasis. But it would appear that resolation is the only interrogation. This might be added citalization, all the others being the results. It is true that metastasis is a determination of inflammation in that part, but might be determined with equal propriety. In determination an organ has a mere translation to another part. The treatment of inflammation is variable in accordance, with the degree or character of the inflammation where it is of an acute form one should resort to proper dietetic regulations, and if this does not suf-
Fire. Purgation is one among our efficient remedies. Colomel or Oleum Nep. is generally selected because of its de-purifying quality. Muriatic acid and freely venesecatin which one of our most powerful remedies, in cases attended by inflamingatory action, Oleum nep. should in all cases be observed, with such topical applications as may seem indicated. In cases where the inflamingatory action is of an indifferent character we should convert the ulcer into a "healthy one," or change, at least, its character. This is accomplished by the application
of stimuli, and mititning alike. with such general principles, all account all inflammation can be successfully combated, with such other deviations as each case may present.