AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Rubeola, or Measles.

SUBMITTED TO THE
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OF
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Rubella, or Measles:

Measles is an eruptive disease propagated by contagion, described by Rhazes in the ninth century, and it was confounded with smallpox in the days of the ancients, and even put in the category with that disease. The ancient thought that it was a modified smallpox. They observed the pimples were not so large nor so highly elevated as they were in smallpox, and they called this morbilli. They knew it to make its appearance at the place where smallpox had prevailed as an epidemic, and they knew it to go the same direction that smallpox went when it prevailed there; from the resemblance the pimples of measles
close to those of Smallpox and the
manner in which it had in proceeding, they thought that it was a
modification of that disease, and since then it has been named Rubella
from its red appearance, and it was for a long time confounded with
Scarlatina, because it bore some resemblance to that disease in color
and appearance. Inoculation has been resorted to in order to
protect the system from the
susceptibility of the disease. The
inoculation produced the desired
effect but did not protect the system
from the susceptibility of the disease,
and inoculation has been resorted to
in order to arrest the disease in its
progress but it availed nothing.
Measles is one of the most contagious of all diseases, it can be propagated from a person before the person has any symptoms of the disease. After having received the poison in the system and it may be communicated from one person to another after the person has gotten well of it for as long a time as seven days. Undoubtedly the disease stays in the system longer after it has apparently subsided than any other disease almost known.

The most prominent symptoms of Measles are as follows:

Commencing with chilliness, stupidity, pains in the limbs, irritation of the nose, which promotes great sneezing, irritation of
The eyes, and a copious flow of tears from them, irritation of the posterior part of the mouth, and larynx, and considerable dryness of those parts. Measles has a great tendency to affect mucous membranes; in children the mucous membrane appears to be more affected than they are in adults. The child may be very much disturbed from the irritation of important parts. The child seems very much, so much, as sometimes to bring on a ephistemic. There will be tightness of the chest, and difficult breathing, and more or less stickiness along with those symptoms. The rash generally makes its appearance in about twenty-two hours, from
the time the fever commences, and lasts about as long as four days. The fever continues when the rash makes its appearance, and generally subsiding when the rash begins to disappear, the febrile stage lasts about seven days. Though this may vary in some persons, it may be longer, and in others shorter in persons who have thick skin the rash will not break out so soon as it will in persons who have thin and tender skin. In the rash, first makes its appearance on the forehead, and in the face, on the neck, and tongue, appearing in little red spots, slightly elevated. After they have made their appearance in two days the whole body and
extremities, will be broken out with it. The pimples are at first of a darkened, and sick, appearance; the cuticle somewhat elevated, the pimples will disappear when they are subjected to pressure, but when the pressure is removed, they will appear, and resume their original shape; the symptoms are very distinct at this stage of the disease. Such, as irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, fauces, and pharynx. About this time the first pimpls begin to disappear, desquamation takes place, the cuticle separates from the adjacent points, and new pimpls soon begin to appear in their place, which are much larger, and more elevated, and they arrange themselves in patches, or clusters, and in the midst of these
Clusters of a few vesicles are situated with some sound skin encircled by patches of the eruption and these vesicles are situated on the edge of the sound skin. A few of them are commingled with the eruptive spots, but they are mostly situated between the sound skin and the eruptive spots. They have lymph encased in the interior of them, which elevates them, and make them more susceptible than the eruptive spots. As the symptoms now begin to subside, especially those of the most grave type, such as difficult breathing, tightness about the chest, low throat, or these symptoms may continue, and the more common ones disappear. Such as irritation of the eyes, throat, and the nose, there is a form of
Rubella, that has none of the catarhal symptoms, that is, named Rubella sine catarca. This name was given to it because the catarhal symptoms were absent in this disease. The disease is mostly seen where common Rubella has prevailed as an epidemic. It attacks persons after they have had Rubella. Neither of those diseases will protect the system from the other. Rubella is the most dangerous when it terminates in some disease of the lungs or of the alimentary canal, such as pneumonia, which affects the lungs, diarrhoea, which affects the alimentary canal, and sometimes lasts a great while, even last as long as three or four months.
the pneumonia affects the fine air cells of the lungs, the air cells are in a congested condition, which may give the person great difficulty in breathing. The irritation may continue until the lung becomes inflamed, about that time, a new fever sets in, which is more violent. The diarrhea may be very simple, or it may be very profuse, requiring the most scientific treatment. The system may be prostrated by a disease to such a degree that an irritant may produce a bad sore, from the irritability which the system is laboring under. The irritation caused from the bite of a leech may terminate in a bad sore, or irritation from
the application of a blister to any part of the body, may terminate in a very bad sore. the diagnosis of measles is very difficult. in the commencement of the disease, it may be mistaken for almost any of the exanthematic diseases. though, the one which it is most apt to be mistaken for, is scarlet fever, and smallpox, in measles, when the eruption makes its appearance. the scarlet subsides, in smallpox, it does; and the eruption of measles, is fourteen days. smallpox for only twelve, scarlet fever four, in measles, the eruption makes its appearance in seventy-two hours, from the commencement of the fever. small for forty-eight, scarlet fever twenty-four.
the simples in measles make their appearance on the face first, and in two days extend over the surface of the body, and extremities. The rash in scarlet fever, makes its appearance under the clothing first, then it gradually spreads over the surface of the body, and other parts, in small spots on the arms, on the lumbar region, and irritability of the stomach, will in almost all cases characterize small pox, before the eruption has made its appearance. The eruptive spots in measles, are very red, in small spots, they are of a more pale color. In scarlet fever, they are not so highly elevated, hardly perceptible to the feel, and the skin is more of a dark red color, than it is in
Measles and scarlet fever generally locate in the fauces and posterior part of the mouth. Measles mostly affects the lungs and alimentary canal; the prognosis of measles is almost always favorable, it is only unfavourable in cases where it is complicated with some disease, or when it terminates in bronchitis, pneumonia, or diarrhoea, or some termination to the brain, inducing irritation or inflammation, of that important organ. Children generally suffer from cough and inflammation of the lungs, and other very important organs. Treatment the treatment of measles in its mild forms is simple, almost requiring none, only to avoid the
predispositions of the weather, if the
bowels are constipated, or mild cathartics,
merely to operate a few times, and
to keep the bowels open, and low
diet, demulcent drinks, are very efficient:
it must be borne in mind that the
disease can’t be cut short, and therefore
no attempt should be made to do so.
Keep the person from the influence
of cold weather, give demulcent drinks
of almost any kind, is almost all
that is required in the mild form
of the disease. For the demulcent,
some black seed tea, or ginger ale,
water or lemonade, when the skin
is hot and dry, the demulcents,
might be added. Some syrup of
Phoece, great advantage can be
derived from the administration of
Diphtheria, in this way, if there is much cough, antimonial wine, might be substituted for the Elixir Syrup. The affection of the lungs may very readily be detected by the application of the ear to the chest. Of the symptoms of Pneumonia, make their appearance; they should be treated like common Pneumonia. If Diarrhoea makes its appearance, it should be treated in the same way that Diarrhoea is treated in the uncomplicated form.