AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION
ON
Bilious Remittent Fever

SUBMITTED TO THE
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Fever is the great instrument in the hands of the destroying angel of accomplishing the destruction of physical man. Ever since the fiat of omnipotence, dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return, was uttered, fever has stalked over the earth like a conqueror, scouring generation after generation of the human family off the stage of earthly action, to that ultimate destruction of man wherein there shall be no more death.

And as no age of the world has been exempt from the ravages of fever, so neither has any country or locality. The proud and haughty kneels, while giving the world lessons in philosophy was arrested by a morbid craving in his own organization, which his own
philosophy could not explain. The
conquest of Egypt, while preserving those
tremendous monuments of his archi-
tectural skill, and of his country's num-
erical force, was seized with a thirst
that his own Nile could not quench.
When the triumphs of Rome's soldiers
were heard round the world: Scipio
sitting in Africa, Sylla in Asia, Caesar
in Europe—never was silence, but surely
doing its work of destruction, with
tenfold more fatality than they.
In whatever region of the world the
hardy Briton is called in following
the fortunes of his country, his hands
and his rival Scourge of our race, is
always in action.
As it is our country's mission to
liberate the world from the maledicts
of false religion, and false politics.
may it be her destiny, by carrying
the laws of hygiene to the ultimate
perfection, to free it from its great-
est physical evils, fever.

Nature is uniform in all her
laws, and in the morbid process of the
animal economy, as in other depart-
ments of her operations, there are clas-
ifications by genus and species.

The general traits of fever are the same
everywhere, but the species differ as
evidently as do the fevers of the vicinity
of the Pontine marches from those of
the valley of the Nile or those of the
New England States from those of the
valley of the Mississippi.

The fevers of any of these localities
may be modified by innumerable
circumstances which reflect themselves
in individual cases. Of the genus, fever, it may be said that there are chills, followed by increased heat of skin, quick pulse, languor, and latitude.

Of the species, Bilious Remittent Fever, the following description is intended as an outline view.

Bilious Remittent Fever, may be regarded as the endemic fever of marshy and alluvial countries.
It is rare in the mountainous and hilly districts of our country, except where there are large streams or pools of standing water. It is almost exclusively a disease of the summer and autumnal months, affecting all ages, and all grades of society.

Its periodical elements is the leading feature of the disease, of which the intermittent is only a milder and the
Congestive a more severe grade.
But with these grades this spray has nothing to do.

The disease this somewhat abrupt and well marked in its approach, gives a warning of its coming by a disturbance in the innervation, as the languor, pain or uneasiness in the head, feeling of general soreness indicate. The tongue is slightly furrowed near the root.

During the first few days the patient is going about, and engaged at his ordinary business. A sense of chilliness, amounting often to rigor, marks the formal stages of the disease. This is followed by increased heat of the skin, and acceleration of the pulse, constituting the febrile movement, attended with muscular debility, depression and reaction, and the daily exacerbation.
impressed on all fibrile action by
the rhythmical movements of life.
Nor, follow the congestions, and the
disturbance of function to which they
give size.
These are most generally, if not always,
of the Spleen, Stomach, and Liver, as the
nausea and vomiting, the fulness and
tenderness of the right hypochondriac
region, and the yellowness of the skin
and conjunctiva indicate.
The disturbance of the nervous system
is greater after the full development of
the disease, the pains in the back and
limbs being very severe; the face is
flushed, the eyes are red, and the
headache very distressing.
The action of the vascular system is
greatly increased. The pulse during
the acceleration, frequently rising to one
hundred or even to one hundred and twenty or Thirty beats in the minute.

Following the disturbance of the nervous and vascular system, we have disturbance of the secretions.

The tongue being slightly burned at the outset, after the disturbance of the secretions, becomes covered with a dirty white or yellowish film retaining its moisture in mild cases, but in grave ones becoming parched and dry, brown or nearly black, on its upper surface, and red on its edges, and sometimes indented by the teeth, in consequence of being somewhat swollen.

The patient is often troubled with uneasy sensations about his face, which causes an almost constant hawking. There is an entire loss of appetite, but there is an intense thirst, cold and
acidulated drinks being called for.

The bowels are generally free from
irritation; and instead of an increased
action, there is often the majority of cases
often torpidity which requires medication.
The stools are generally disordered,
sometimes dark colored and offensive,
but mostly bilious, with some shade
of yellow or green.

The urine, in the remission is almost
natural, but, during the exacerbation,
it is scantly and high colored.

The respiratory organs generally present
only hurried breathing which is, charac-
teristic of the disease,
usually occurring in the morning.

The duration of the disease is generally
about ten days or two weeks. Mild cases
occasionally, lingering much beyond this
time, assuming in fact, a low lingering
type, known as the typhoid stage of bilious remittent fever.

The pathology of fever is not well understood. The most constant alterations in the fluids, is a diminished quantity of fibrine in the blood. This is perhaps always the case when there are no inflammatory complications. The alteration in the solids, is entirely dependent upon the development of congestion or inflammation. These may be divided into those which are constant, and those which are accidental.

In bilious remittent fever, as the symptoms would indicate, the constant alterations are in the liver, stomach, and spleen. The accidental alterations may be of the brain or spinal marrow, the lungs or of the bowels. The alterations in the liver and spleen, are the results,
most generally of congestion, those of
The Stomach and the accidental alterati-
on are, most generally those resulting
from inflammation.
Of the liver there is increased volume,
softening, and a change of its natural
colour to a sallow or brown. The spleen
is almost, always enlarged, sometimes to
four or five times its healthy dimens-
ions, softened so much in many instances
as to resemble loosely clotted blood, and
of a dark color.
Of the Stomach there is redness, vascular-
ity, and softening of the mucus mem-
brane. An emanation from low, marshy
grounds, in warm, wet weather, known
as the marsh miasma or malaria, is the
reported efficient cause of bilious remi-
nent fever. Exposure to a change of
temperature, from a high to a low degree,
is the most common exciting cause.

The diagnosis of bilious remittent fevers is not attended with any great difficulty. The seasons of the year and the locality assisting materially; as the warmer months and a near vicinity to malarial localities, favour the production of this form of fever.

The diagnostic marks are the daily remission of the febrile movement, irritability of the stomach, fullness and tenderness of the right hypochondriac region, yellowness of the skin and conjunctiva, suspended biliary secretions, dirty white or brown fur on the tongue, severe pain in the head and back, and the urine scanty and dark colored. Even when the case lingers, and the typhoid element of pathology develop itself, the periodical remissions, and the absence
of any cutaneous eruption, prevent it from being mistaken for one of the fevers of the continued type.

The mortality of bilious remittent fever, under judicious management, is not very great, consequently, the prognosis is generally favourable. Long duration of the remissions, short duration of the exacerbations, decrease of the pains indicative of local congestions or inflammations, and an improvement in the character of the secretions, indicate a favourable event of the disease.

A short duration of the remission, long duration of the exacerbations, the local congestions or inflammations more intense, and the secretions more vitiated, argue an unfavorable termination of the disease.

The treatment of bilious remittent fever is reduced to the utmost simplicity.
If the vascular excitement runs very high, general depletion by the lancet, if the local complications are very severe, depletion by leeches or cups, mineral purge to unload the bowels and establish the proper secretions from the liver, and the use of quinine during the convulsions, constituting its principal medication.