AN INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

The Pathology of Typhoid Fever.

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BY

John White, Jr.

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Dedicated
As the Memory of Daniel Drake M.D.
The profoundest
American Medical Philosopher
Of his Days,
And who, tho’ dead,
His labor lives after him.
By
The Author.
Pathology of Typhoid Fever

Theories relative to all diseases have existed from time immemorial; and are yet calculated to have the fastidious properties of our Curious case, who are ever upon the alert to imbibe that which is new, and dispel the old. This it be of axiomatic evidence. Now this faculty of the human mind is one of the grand provices of Omnipotence, which enables man to look beyond his visible nature, and throw off the veil of human code, which horded the intellect, and shaped its ends to the aggrandizement of its own peculiar views. For if we speculate, not beyond the grand truths of Nature which are daily made apparent to our common senses, how are we to comprehend the sublime and hidden mysteries of Organic life, which theoretical speculations and investigations, hourly elaborate into an epistle, Divine in itself.
and not less true, than Divine. Theory, therefore, appears to be of importance, so far as it leads to the investigation of Truth; yet that truth when made manifest, if it conflict in any of its bearing with the Theory that led to its discovery, no longer is it worthy of preservation nor should it be followed as a talisman, by which truth itself is to be ignored.

But it is not our object to discuss the many views that have been promulgated, relative to the Cause, and different lesions of Typhoid Fever, but only to review its Pathology, and to explain as far as we are able the causes of these pathological manifestations.

I believe that it is now conceded that every organ of the economy, shares more or less, a functional derangement in Typhoid Fever, which originates from the absorption
of an organic poison, produced by animal decomposition. For proof of this, we refer to the existence of this disease to a greater extent in cities, and in places where the atmosphere is situated than in the country where we breathe the pure air, blessed into sweetness and famed by the aromatic morning geysers when first they begin to battle the heat of advancing day. Yet it may be said that this poison is also found upon our highest mountains, and in every portion of the land, which we admit to be true; but in these dwellings well ventilated, and managed with cleanliness, Typhoid Fever rarely ever exists, unless the system has been impregnated by the poison in other regions where it is produced.

At least this is the now accepted theory out of the many that have been advanced
upon this subject, and we now give it as the most rational and conclusive to our mind of all others. And in fact we are inclined to the belief that the internal decomposition of our own bodies, may be the primordial form of its origin.

Whether this poison has any special physical character peculiar to itself, we believe that minute microscopic investigations have not yet determined. But its impairing vital properties made manifest from its deleterious effect upon the blood, which we shall make as the primary basis lesson of this disease.

This foreign stimulant is absorbed into the circulation, exciting it to undue action, and thereby destroying the equilibrium of its proximate principles. The fibres instead of remaining its healthy standards, or being increased
as an inflammatory action, is reduced from 3/2 or 3 parts in the 1000 to 1/4, and often even a fraction of a part. This, which shows an undue loss in the reproductive vital powers of that fluid.

It is also thought that the Red Corpuscles and Albumen are diminished in quantity; yet this fact has not been satisfactorily established. Now this loss of fibres in the blood predisposes to hemorrhages, congestion, etc., either into the substance of the tissue, or on the surface of membranes, and these conditions are known to be of frequent occurrence as complications of febrile disorders.

And not only do we find a diminution in the quantity of the fibres, as is perhaps the case in the other approximate principles, but its quality is greatly vitiated, as well as that of the Red Corpuscles, Albumen, etc., which gives
but an impoverished blood, unfit for the nourishment or development of the soft or hard tissues of the body. Now this abnormal fluid circulating throughout the system, produces secondary lesions in the solid tissues, which Complicate the Fever, and are but the results of the primary Cause.

The muscular fibers of the heart and circulatory medium, as well as that of the whole system, loses its integrity from a pathological nutriment, which gives rise to the softening of those tissues, and an inability to the performance of their physiological functions. Therefore this being true, we can account for the variations of pulse, which are peculiar to Typhoid Fever.

The blood being a highly organized and vitalized fluid, has by the absorption of this poison "suffered a most important primary
lesion, which deranges the relative proportion of its different ingredients, breaks the balance of its proximate principles, and thus entails upon it an inferior degree of organization, and a low order of vitality. Such may be established as its conditions in this disease by chemical analysis, and to some extent by its imperfect coagulability.

Now this inferior vitalized blood, instead of affording nourishment to the different tissues, acts as an abnormal stimulant, deranging their functions, affecting nutrition and secretion, and thereupon producing excessive emaciation.

These secondary lesions are physiological—affecting nutrition, secretion, and excretion. The former being the power of maintaining and nourishing an organ, as well as furnishing material for the special functions of other organs, is highly essential to the sustenance
of health; while the two others are of no less importance, as the one separates from the blood the proximate elements of digestion, and the other throws off the effete matter of the system.

Arising from these physiological derangements, we find a rapid decline in muscular action, as well as mental languor, which is attributable to the imperfect development of the blood corpuscles in the mucous glands.

The blood loses its alkaline reaction from the want of a proper oxygenated equilibrium; and thus from an adynamic stimulant to the brain, we have a low muttering irritative fever which may manifest itself in varying delirium, but never in true inflammation. And here we wish to remark, that inflammatory action is in no instance a lesion of Typhoid Fever; for altho...
ough it be attended with the most frantic
Tremors, it is caused either by an abnormal
Stimulant to the brain, or an effusion of
Serum in the sub-Arachnoid space, or by a
Deficiency of blood to the brain. And again we
may have Typhoid Pneumonia, which results
from the failure of a proper relationship
between the hematin of the blood, and the Oxygen of the
Lungs; thereby differing in its most important
bearing from Inflammatory Pneumonia, which is
the result of Cold, and an increase of fibrin.

In this disease we again fail to have proper
Inflammation of the parenchyma of the Lungs, but
merely stagnation in the Capillary Circulation,
from deficient Chemic-vascular affinity.

And we are also inclined to the belief, that the
existence of this condition originates as much from
the imperfect Combustibility of the Oxygen and
Carbon, dependent upon vitiated red corpuscles
for this circulation through the system, as from the abnormal permeability of the diseased blood upon the nervous centres.

Now the basis of the 3rd or anatomical lesions are dependent upon stagnation in the capillary circulation from deficient chemico-vital affinity.

3rd From physiological lesions of regredy glands; enlargement, softening and ulceration of the pre-sacral ganglia, and especially those that correspond with the morbid patches in the intestines; also ulceration of the pharynx, of the cartilage of the epiglottis, softening of the liver, spleen, heart and kidneys, septication of the lungs, and congestion of the meninges of the brain. The cause of this capillary stagnation, and chemico-vital deficiency has before been attributed to the derangement in the relative proportions of the different ingredients.
icents of the blood; and this coagulable deposit, is but a situated coagulable lymph that is thrown out for the healing of these lesions whenever they may exist.

As the ulceration of Peyer's Glands is considered by many as pathognomonic of the disease under consideration, we shall confine our remarks upon the Anatomical lesions, especially to this branch of our subject. Now for a correct understanding of the relation that this ulceration bears to Typhoid Fever, it may be proper that we should state, that much diversity of opinion exists upon this subject; and that many theories have been promulgated, presenting claims to plausibility, although their basic positions may be hypothetical and purely speculative.

One opinion is that the poison, though hidden cause, which gives type to the fever,
circulates with the blood through the entire system, and acts as a foreign stimulus to the irritability of the different tissues, and more especially are those 'Islands of Peyer' sensitive to the impression of this foreign stimulus — through giving rise to irritation, inflammation, and as a consequence, suppuration and ulceration."

Another by Stokes of Dublin is, "that during an attack of Typhoid Fever, a "messa typho," or "typhoid matter," is deposited in the follicles of Peyer, first of a progressive, then of a retrogressive character. What it has no physical character which distinguishes it from other morbid products."

Yet he contends that although there may be no physical characteristics of a specific kind, peculiar to it, still it may have important vital characters decidedly specific; just as two specimens of pendant
matter, one from an ordinary abscess, the other from a small pox pustule, may have no appreciable physical differences, yet possess important and very decided specific vital differences.

And a 3rd, which is for the most convincing and satisfactory to our mind is, "%

That in Typhoid Fever a morbid element is deposited in various tissues, but more especially in the follicles of the intestinal canal.

2d That this morbid element is the basis of the secondary local lesions that complicate the progress of the fever.

3d That, as tubercular deposits soften and establish a low degree of inflammation that degrades the tubercle into prevalent matter, so also this Typhoid deposit, from its specific vital condition, soon passes into what is denominated ulceration of the glands of Peyre.
once between what is denominated the "Matta typhoda," and other morbid products. Is its vital characteristics specific, or sui generis?"

In order that this may justify our belief with the four last propositions, we shall proceed to the review of the special anatomical characteristics of the glands of Regel. And to do so, it was necessary that we should first notice the physical character of each gland that empties into the intestinal canal, from the pylorus to the mouth of the rectum. First, we have the follicles of Lieberkühn, scattered throughout the whole alimentary tract, which are tubular in form, with extremities upon the interior of the mucous membrane. Then Brunner's glands, which are small granular bodies, situated beneath the mucous membrane of the duodenum, and opening upon its surface by minute excretory ducts.
Kept is the liver, and pancreas, which terminate generally by one common duct, (the ductus communis choledochus,) continuing by a small orifice through an elevated tube upon the surface of the mucus membrane of the duodenum; and in the large intestines, we have solitary glands which are alike endowed with secretory ducts.

Now as we have mentioned the peculiarity of each gland that issues into the intestines, we shall proceed to the anatomical peculiarity of the glands of Peyer. As we pass through the jejunum, we will find a few isolated glands, becoming more and more aggregated as we proceed to the lower portion of the ileum. Here these glands are situated in the substance of the mucous membrane, and whether they exist in the isolated, or agminated form,
are but simple shoot sacks, with no orifice or duct, by which their contents can be discharged. They possess as the other glands a peculiar secretion; and as it increases in quantity, the walls of the sack become more and more distended, until the mucous membrane that is imposed above from this enlargement, is ruptured, together with the sack, and its contents are emptied into the alimentary tract.

Now we have a physiological reason which is peculiar to each gland of Peyer; and Nature in remedying this rupture, obliterate the sack, and forms new ones. "Thus we are led to conclude," says the author of this view of the subject, "that each set of Peyer's glands serves only a temporary purpose, for as each fills its function, it is destroyed and thus come into existence as their special secretion is re-
guared to be performed. The analogue to this peculiarity of Perier glands says he, "is found in the Graaffian vessels in the ovaria, and its rupture for the expulsion of the ovum, and then the final obliteration of the back of the vessel."

Now from this peculiar anatomical structure of the glands of Perier, being void of a duct for the elimination of their contents, it is manifest that a lesion must be, and so produced; - which we shall denominate a conservative law of nature; - attempting to avoid congestion, inflammation, and consequently suppuration.

In a healthy lesion, organizible lymph is immediately thrown out, which produces rapid cicatization, and soon every trace of the rupture is removed. Whether this "Malta Typhosa" has any peculiar affinity...
for the glands of Peyer, we are unable to say; yet there are lesions caused by the same disease which are far less pronounced, and which, in their early stages, are more apt to be mistaken for the effects of other diseases.

Yet in Typhoid Fever, these lesions occur in health; but from the low degree of vitality and organization of the blood, we have the onset of instead of an organized, a necrosplastic lymph, which fails to produce cicatization, but serves rather as a mask of irritation, from which a morbid action will spread, and thereby facilitates the breaking down of the tissue, and establishing an ulceration of these ductless glands.

Now hemorrhage may originate from transudation, on account of the irritated state of the blood, and excessive ulceration of the intestinal canal; or we may have coagula...
The blood thrown out from the open mouths of the capillary vessels, on account of the ploughing off of the islands of Peplum Grandes; these islands often perforating all the walls of the intestine, and affording an opportunity for the expulsion of fecal matter into the peritoneal cavity. Thus setting up a low degree of inflammation, or more properly congestion, resulting in death.

From a synopsis of the above course of reasoning we are forced to these conclusions.

1st. What a specific poison gets into the circulation, and is carried with the blood through all the organs, and being a foreign element in the blood, produces more or less irritation in the different organs.

2nd. The equilibrium of the proper functions of the blood is lost, both in...
ference to quantity and quality—incapacitating
it for any of the great functions of life.
This foreign matter acts upon the blood on
the same principle that the specific poisons
of Scarlet Fever, Measles and Small Pox do;
requiring however longer for it to attain its
specific typhous Crasis, than for either of
these latter diseases to attain their peculiar
Crases.
3d to a physiological lesion;—and
manifests itself in the derangement and
failure of the functions of Nutrition, Secretion,
and Excretion; growing out of a broken
balance between the demands of the tis-
ues and organs, and the material which
the blood supplies them, both in reference
to the quantity, and quality of the matter,
and also the abnormal stimulus to which
it subjects them.
In Anatomical lesion, which may occur in any organ or tissue, and manifests itself in the form of a Capillary Congestion, and in consequence an exudation of ceaoplastie lymph into the parenchyma of the different organs, or a rupture of the Capillary vessels with hemorrhage as a consequence.

This congestion above mentioned, grows out of a failure of the Capillary force of the circulation. The peculiar anatomical lesion of Peyer's glands resulting in ulceration, is a natural consequence of a point of irritation, established by a rupture of the backs of Peyer in performing their functions, inviting the deposition of ceaoplastie lymph, which fails in the Morphotlie force of organization, and like tubercle soon sputters down, involving in its own destruction, the tissue in which it is infiltrated. Thus
ulcers often being the seat of hemorrhage, and sometimes perforating all the walls of the intestinal canal, furnishing an opportunity for fecal excrement to be passed into the peritoneal cavity, with the dangerous effects consequent to such a condition.