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AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Coexistence of Malarial and Typhoid Fever

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BY

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OF

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To
Prof W. L. Bowling M. D.
As

A slight testimonial of pro-
-found respect for his peerless
moral and intellectual excellen-
-cies these pages are inscribed by
The Author

Coexistence of Malarial and Typhoid Fever

It has been, and is still a disputed question among medical writers whether Malarial and Typhoid ^{fever} do or can exist in the same organism at the same time or not.

After a careful consideration of the nature of the two diseases as well as observations made at the bedside of the patient, we are induced to believe that the affirmative side of the question is the more rational and philosophic of the two. In espousing the affirmative, we are well

aware that we are subjecting our-
selves to the criticism of able and
experienced writers who may en-
-ertain views widely at variance
with opinions which ~~we~~ will
be expressed in these pages.

But as freedom of thought and
speech is the true channel through
which all research and investi-
-gation, whether connected with
medical science or not must
flow, we hope it will not be
considered ^{trivial} presumptuous to express
our convictions without restraint
on this mooted question.

The boldness to dispute established
theories, the hardihood to differ
and join issue with those hold-
-ing conspicuous and exalted

positions in the medical world,
has led to the discovery and es=
=tablishment of some of the most
important truths of the present
era. Without stopping to enumerate
these, we will proceed to the dis=
=cussion of the subject under con=
=sideration.

But before proceeding farther
we deem it proper to say some=
=thing in regard to the origin
and cause of these two fevers, in
order that we may elucidate our
subject more fully, at the same
time we do not intend to enter
into a minute consideration of all
the diagnostic symptoms of the two
diseases, neither is it our intention
to give at length the treatment

appropriate for each, For many years the popular opinion has prevailed that Malaria was dependant upon, and originated altogether from decayed or decaying vegetable matter, but very recently there have been found those of sufficient boldness to attack and dispute this long established theory: and it must eventually "totter to its fall" before the reason and logic of such writers as Watson, Boiling and others whom we might mention.

In our opinion it is dependant upon the action of an intense degree of heat for a length of time upon water situate just beneath a surface. We have been driven to this conclusion by the sound logic and eloquent style

in which our talented and distinguished Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic in the University of Nashville, has elucidated the subject, as well as the writings of others.

Its effects on the organism, its striking phenomena and peculiar characteristics, are too familiar to every one, to claim any thing more than an incidental allusion in this place.

We will now take a hasty glance at Typhoid fever and briefly allude to its origin native characteristics etc etc. It too finds its origin in the influence which a peculiar poison exercises on the Economy. As to the nature of this poison, there is a great

diversity of opinion, some contending
for an atmospheric origin, and that
it finds its way into the system thro-
ugh the respiratory apparatus, others
think it is propagated by contagion
But there are circumstances connected
with the developement of this fever
which militate very strongly against
such an origin and are irreconcila-
ble with its sporadic and irregular
visitations. Although we may be
accused of digressing, nevertheless we
will here venture to give our own
views of its origin, considering it to
come legitimately within our reach
and believing that many of its phenom-
ena can be better explained on them,
than ^{on} the theories which have been
mentioned

1st We believe the poison of Typhoid fever to originate in the system itself

2nd We believe it to depend upon an enfeebled condition of the functions of Assimilation, Digestion, Secretion, or Sanguification, or probably on all combined, and that in consequence of this enfeebled condition, the true excretories or excreting organs of the body are incapacitated for eliminating and carrying out of the system those effete and detestable substances which are incompatible with Health. This enfeebled condition of the functions alluded to, may be produced by a great many exciting causes, among which may be enumerated the following
Cold, hence we find it prevailing

mostly in the Fall, Winter and Spring,
Exposure and fatigue, to these sources
it might be traced in those who are
engaged in the more active duties
of life, and it may probably be
owing to a comparative exemption
from these causes, that we do not
see it so frequently in the tender
years of infancy, or the very aged.
Deficient ventilation, to this source
it may be traced, in crowded rooms,
hospitals, jails, barracks Ships and
prisons, Excessive and deprec-
ing indulgences of all kinds, to
these sources may be traced a large
majority of the cases which occur
in the higher circles of life, the
true cause being concealed from
the medical attendant and never

suspected by the patient himself,
To the foregoing list might be add-
ed the depressing mental emotions
and exercises, to these influences
a great many of those cases might
might be traced which occur in
those who are just entering upon
the busy scenes of life, fear, anxiety,
ambition, prospects blighted,
excessive study and a thousand other
causes which are never suspected.

We are of the opinion that those
effete and deleterious matters
when retained in ^{the} system, are ca-
-pable of exerting and spending
their influence on certain glands
organs or parts of the body, exerting
some and depressing others, just
as certain medicines ~~of~~ and poisons
do

Urea retained in the circulation poisons the brain; aloetics spend their influence on the rectum; Strychnine on the nervous system; ergot on the uterus, and many of the diseases of our country which are produced by specific poisons show a decided preference for certain parts of the body.

But in what way does ^{poison} produce the many and varied phenomena which present themselves, is a question which would naturally arise in the course of our investigations. We are of the opinion now that, (as we before stated,) they can be more satisfactorily explained on the theory which we have set forth than any other.

The slow and gradual accumulation of the poison in the system would account for the tardy manner in which the disease is developed. The great depression of the nervous, and prostration of the muscular system is attributable to the vitiated and poisoned condition of the circulating medium, which is thus rendered unfit for, and incapable of affording a proper degree of nourishment to the different tissues of the body. But why that most constant of all anatomical lesions in this disease to wit inflammation and ulceration of the elliptical plates or glands of Peyer which are found in the Ileum;

We do not wish to be driven to the necessity of endeavoring to explain things which are inexplicable. There are many things connected with pathological anatomy which medical philosophers can never explain. The only answer which we can give to the foregoing question will be found in that peculiar tendency which diseases have to affect certain parts of the body in preference to others, (to which we have before alluded) The Atmospheric and Contagious theories afford no better explanation than the one we have given. The tympanitis is dependent upon gasses retained in the intestines. These gasses are probably produced

by those effete and decomposed particles which the Emmenories have failed to carry out of the system, The local inflammations which present themselves are more incidental complications, which might make their appearance in the course of any other Idiopathic fever,

The treatment which all experienced has proven to be most appropriate in this disease, seems to favor the theory which we advocate, viz Combating local inflammation, preserving the integrity of the vital organs, supporting the sinking powers of Life, assisting the struggling efforts of nature until the system is enabled by

its recuperative powers to throw
off the offending ^{matter} or exciting
cause, But says one, if these causes
produce this disease once, why will
they not produce it again when
the patient is subjected to the same
influences? The answer is in our
opinion very simple, when the
human system is once fully im-
pressed with, or by, a peculiar
virus or poison it is no longer
amenable to its influence.

Having given our views in re-
-gard to the origin of the two
diseases, it only remains for us
to show in what way the two
diseases may and do exist in
the same organism at the same
time

We do not wish to be misapprehended in the ground we occupy; we do not contend that the peculiar Malaria, or poison, which produces Intermittent or Remittent fever will change essentially in its nature, and become the poison which produces typhoid fever, or visa versa, but that the two efficient causes may, and do, act in concert at the same time producing a hybrid, or complicated disease.

Nearly every general practitioner of medicine in the South and south west, must have noticed that in the course of his practice, he has seen numerous cases of idiopathic fever which he was unable

to diagnose for many days on account of the admixture of malarial and typhoid symptoms, he must have noticed, moreover that after the malarial symptoms were subdued by specific remedies, that the typhoid symptoms continued, and that the case finally terminated, as that fever usually terminates. Now we ask, what is it which produces this state of things? Some say that it is genuine typhoid fever ingrafted on a malarial diathesis, the question at once arises, what produces this diathesis, and the only rational answer which can be given is, that it is malaria acting on the system, and we contend that it would con-

time to do so, to the termina-
tion of the disease, were it not
subdued by specific remedies.
Let us change the case

Suppose that typhoid
fever could be subdued by specific
remedies, and Malarial fever could
not, then we would see the mala-
rial symptoms continuing after
the typhoid symptoms had been
subdued. We have no faith whatever
in a malarial diathesis, Why? Simply
from the fact that it would be
transmissible, it would become he-
reditary in families, neither could
it be aborted by specific remedies.
No person has ever seen a man
shake at a certain time of life with
an ague simply because his pro

genitors had done the same thing
No child has had enlarged spleen
because his father before him had.
We do not think that a Diathesis
can be acquired by any extrane-
ous circumstances, neither do we be-
lieve that a diathesis properly speak-
ing can be subdued by specific
remedies

With all due respect for the opinion
of others, we submit these pages to the
candid consideration of those under
whose observation they may fall.