

AN  
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

*Enteric* <sup>and</sup> *Fever*

#480

SUBMITTED TO THE

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AND MEDICAL FACULTY

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BY

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OF

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To  
W. K. Bowling Professor  
of Theory and Practice of Medicine  
in the

Medical department of the  
University of Nashville

This Thesis is most Respectfully  
Inscribed

By the Author

## Enteric Fever

I consider more fatal than any other yellow fever excepted. It has been raging over almost every inhabited portion of our glorious union for a century or more. It has always succeeded in baffling the skill of the most learned and experienced scientific Physician of the medical world ever since the days of Louis. Learned men of the profession have given a great deal of attention to this disease still it seems to be less understood than most other diseases of the present day. Whole volumes have been written exclusively upon

this fatal malady for the purpose of making known some means by which it might be made to let go of the system but little success has crowned those who have yet investigated and written upon this troublesome fever still it seems that much of the history of this disease remains in obscurity notwithstanding in all of its obscurity we have remedies that will if correctly administered check or stay the progress of this disease yet numbers are being consigned to a premature grave because our country is overstocked with quacks and

unqualified practitioners who administer drugs and kill their patients when if nature had been left free to act they would have recovered

The young physician who has acquired a sufficient quantity of medical knowledge by close application and at great expense has qualified himself to treat this and all other diseases on a scientific principle must stand aloof to the unqualified and boasting Thompsonian who is well qualified to bring his patient to a premature grave in the treatment of this obscure disease.

Symptoms and Course

<sup>m</sup>The patient is seized with languor and complains of general numbness of his limbs depression of spirit great debility and loss of muscular strength feels fatigued upon the slightest exertion.

<sup>m</sup>The respiration is commonly laborious and interrupted with deep sighs the temporal arteries throb with violent pain in the head and spinal column. The tongue if examined is coated generally with a thin whitish or brownish fur the skin is heated the face is flushed the pulse is quick and small hard and sometimes fluttering. The appetite is generally

destroyed These symptoms may run on for an indefinite period for four six eight or ten days gradually progressing afters with daily remission during which time slight chilliness follows with hot and unpleasant feelings. Chilliness is sometimes not felt though this like most other diseases is ushered in by chilly sensations

The intellect is generally obtuse the patient converses reluctantly in a languid condition unwillingness to exertion but not ill enough to take his bed He raps about for a number of days

The above symptoms increase but the patient cannot describe his feelings. After several days he is attacked with a chill after which has slight fever and headache the tongue is thickened and more pointed at the expense of its width its tip and edges look red and irritated the appetite is gone irritability of stomach and a peculiar uneasiness in the bowels generally with a tendency to diarrhoea an inclination to sleep and unwillingness to converse with any person. Also a tendency to obstinate



delirium though when interrogated answers questions rationally. Thus the patient has passed from day to day until the disease has completely formed itself and we have all the symptoms characteristic of the above fever.

There is great general weakness. Thirst no appetite hot and dry cuticle frequent pulse dulness of expression. Headache is seldom or ever absent often annoys the patient much pain in the limbs and back soreness of the muscles and often pestered with epistaxis the tongue is sharp and red at the tip and its borders becomes dry

and brownish and is protruded with difficulty and is observed to tremble in the effort.

Diarrhoea is very common, soreness and pain is felt in the right iliac region. Unfavorable Symptoms. The nervous symptoms become more decided subsultus tendinum makes its appearance stupor supervenes the organs of hearing become partially and sometimes completely disorganized. partial or complete delirium may take place. then the patient will speak of his former business avocation or occupation that he was engaged in at the time of confinement. He will imagine himself off

from his home and will show signs of uneasiness and will request you to let him go home will often exert himself trying to get up from his bed.

He will involuntarily slip down in the bed. The eyes if examined present a glaring appearance you cannot get the patient's attention he will frequently have from three to a dozen cider coloured discharges in the course of twenty four hours and sometimes more than that.

Frequently a gurgling sound is heard in the iliac region in a large majority of cases this sound may be observed.

Red pimples or spots are frequently discovered upon the chest and abdomen. The patient will become in a delirious state and mutter half formed sentences and will frequently have involuntary fecal evacuations from the bowels. Retention of urine sometimes occurs. The pulse becomes very frequent and fluttering or feeble and slow. The parotid glands sometimes become tumid in the advanced stage of this disease.

The circulation becomes weaker the extremities become cold and clammy the countenance takes on a hypocratic aspect

and lifes last moments are consumed by convulsions or painful struggles.

Symptoms of a favorable termination. The puls becomes more natural not so frequent but fuller and rounder the skin is not so hot nor so dry it becomes relaxed the tongue begins to moisten and cleans its self slowly at the tip and edges.

Delirium and stupor gradually disappear and every thing around the patient is more attractive and will manifest a degree of interest for himself and some desire for food. Should the tongue remain

clean and moist I would expect  
my patient to recover though  
not rapidly. Should the tongue  
become dry and coated again  
and again I would apprehend  
danger convalescence would  
be slow debilitating night  
sweats occur feeble appetite  
very slight causes disturb  
the bowels. Abscesses will  
some times make their  
appearance near the parotid  
glands about the close of  
this disease. the duration of  
this fever is very variable  
cannot come to any positive  
or definite conclusion in  
regard to its symptoms that  
are pretty sure to make their

appearance sooner or later.

Tympanitis comes of from the fourth to the seventh or eighth day. Diarrhoea will be apt to come with or soon after the fever in a majority of cases. Subcutis tendinum is frequently present delirium is sometimes ~~absent~~ for several days. At first it is mild the mind begins wandering upon waking from sleep and will continue to increase until complete loss of mind supervenes. The patient will often in a low voice utter broken or half formed sentences. will imagine himself away from his natural place will make efforts to rescue himself

from his place of confinement. What it is that produces or brings about this disease is thought by some observers to be contagion. In proof of this statement they give cases of individuals bringing the disease into a healthy region of country and spreading it. Again it is found in isolated places or vicinities. It may be found upon the tops of mountains or in the vallies beneath.

As far as my own experience and knowledge I know but little or nothing of the causes but of all ages must subject to this disease every well enlightened <sup>(mind)</sup> Physician in particular that the young person who is in the



full bloom of life is the subject seized upon as its choice. There is a great difference in the constitutions of different individuals some constitutions are more predisposed to this disease than others all are more subject to it from the age of five up to twenty or twenty five than after that time. The exciting causes are several I will mention some of them. The most prominent ones. mental disturbance change of water and climate hard labor in the sun exposed to cold and wet weather.

<sup>and</sup> Treatment. Free access of atmospheric air is essential at the commencement and throughout the disease change

your patients clothing every day  
or two and sponge the head and  
other parts with cold water when  
high febrile action is going on.  
When the skin is hot and dry  
I would give in the beginning  
a mild cathartic of the sulphate  
of magnesia or of Castor oil any  
other mild cathartic will answer  
just as well If pain and diarrhoea  
be present combine sometime  
or eighteen drops of Laudanum  
with the cathartic and in mild  
cases of this disease I would adapt  
the expectant plan of treatment  
do but little or nothing that will  
strongly impress the system  
for often in trying to aid and  
assist nature in its progress

with much medicine patients are brought to a premature or early grave when in a great many cases if nature were left to act the patient would have thrown off the disease and effected a cure. Suffer your patient to drink cold water if he desire it in small quantities repeatedly if desired. If the bowels are running off too much which is generally the case give laudanum sugar of lead or any astringent that will arrest the diarrhoea if they are not contraindicated by inflammation. If your patient has high fever and much pain in the head apply a cataplasm to the back of the neck.

<sup>and</sup> Take of gum arabic three and a half  
ounces compound Spts. Lavender  
Spts. of turpentine two drachms  
each mix and shake well before  
using it Dose one fluid drachm  
every three or four hours throughout  
the whole course of the disease and  
in a majority of instances this  
mode of treatment will prove  
successful. In the common ordinary  
cases of Enteric fever the above  
treatment will prove successful  
but in lingering and obstinate  
cases special local affections require  
prompt attention when there is  
pain in the abdomen.

Emolient cataplasms should be applied  
day after day which often prove  
beneficial in this disease

Subsultus tendinum or twitching  
of the muscles wakefulness  
uneasiness and so on I would  
administer sweet spts. of niter  
it being a great remedy in allaying  
nervous irritability or I would  
use some of the preparations  
of opium if not contraindicated.

Should the tongue remain dry  
and of a dark color and the  
skin a parched aspect and feels  
dry and rough to the touch.

If the abdomen should remain  
undiminished in size the oil of  
turpentine should be increased in  
a mucilage of gum arabic or  
some other vehicle to six or ten  
drops every two or three hours.  
If the turpentine disturb either

the bowels or stomach, you may  
add a few drops of laudanum.  
In the advanced stage of this  
affection it is very debilitating  
so much so that we have to  
refer to stimulants and tonics  
to keep up an equilibrium of the  
general system. The administration  
of wine whey is resorted to as  
probably the best stimulant in  
the advanced stage of this fatal  
malady. Should the strength of  
your patient become reduced,  
administer carbonate of ammoniac  
brandy or some active stimulant.  
If the extremities become numbed  
and cold you should apply stim-  
ulating remedies to them such  
as oil of turpentine brandy.

with capsicum and blisters to the inner sides of the thighs let them remain on untill they produce a rubifacient effect upon the skin. When there is continued delirium you might shave the scalp and apply a blister to the head. Should the patient pass the dangerous part in his case and convalescence commences if he be attacked with debilitating night sweats which is very frequently the case in the above described fever your patient should be treated upon tonics such as the sulphate of quinine the various mineral acids probably the best that we can resort to. In convalescence your patient should be restricted to certain diets

such as are mild and easily of digestion and give the patient a plenty to sustain the system sweet milk is a very good diet probably the best. It comes nearer having all the elements of nutrition than any other article. Beef tea is very good. Rice water and soups of various kinds will answer. If there should be much irritability of the stomach and bowels administer a small quantity of lime water though if my patient longed or craved any special article of food I would under all circumstances let him have a small portion of it let it be what it may.