

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Infantile Remitting Fever

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BY

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Infantile Remitting Fever

Children are subject to various modifications of fevers differing from the ordinary forms of adults in their phenomena, cause and progress; They are described by authors under various names; as worm fevers, the fever consequent upon dentition; hectic of infants, marasmus Underwood gives a short description of fever kinds which are also treated of Haller Colley, Pemberton and others but Burnes' division is more judicious and useful; that which occurs in early infancy, and that which takes place after early dentition; for the fevers incident to early dentition are characterised by phenomena peculiar to its self and requires a modifica-

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trans in their treatment. first of the Remittants of infants during early dentition, this peculiar fever of infants has a close resemblance to the initial stage of acute stage of Hydrocephalus for the Brain is very much involved in both the first Manifestations of any indispositions generally occurs at night. The child is playful at night on going to bed but sometimes during the night it becomes very restless frets and cries. the skin is hot and dry. the pulse quick and full, the mouth hot and dry, and the child starts and screams out as if frightened: this stage last until morning at which time the skin becomes moist and cool, the pulse less frequent and not so full

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but too frequent, the skin is pale, the
Eyes languid and weeps, it is not so play-
full and is inclined to sleep, this
stage continues through the Morning:
in the after part of the day irritability
and fretfulness of the little sufferer
increases. A circumscribed blush
occurs upon one or both cheeks
with irritability of the stomach sets
up with vomiting, the pain in the
head & back increases with a
quick pulse; the skin becomes hot
& dry, the urine scanty and high
coloured and very acrid, the bowels
constipated; this stage will last thro-
ugh the evening and early part of the
night, in the after part of the night
and the following morning there is
another remission, of the disease is

Not counteracted by suitable Remedies
 the febrile symptoms gradually increa-
 se, the exacerbations becomes more violent
 and protracted, and the infant lies
 in a drowsy and stupida Condition
 with the Eyes half open and turned
 back; the remissions art shorter
 and less distinct and the Brains
 become more involved and by degrees
 effusion ensues and the Child
 dies in a Comatosed State or dies
 with Convulsions; though in some
 Cases the Child weakens down and
 dies with an exhausting Diarrhoea,
 if the disease is not checked in a
 few days and suffered to run
 on for six or seven days it hard-
 ly ever recovers before the end of the
 second or third week and recovery

is very tedious and slow, and the child has slight irritative fever for some time; most generally until the advancing teeth are through; on those protracted cases the infant is pale languid & restless with constant Diarrhoea, with a sweat and frequent pulae, the head is hot while the feet & hands are cold, and in this stage of the disease the abdomen is swollen and tympanitic and the extremities very much Emaciated, but not unfrequently the disease runs a much milder course and terminates in a few days, when this is the case the exacerbations becomes milder and shorter and the remission most complete almost amounting

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to an intermission; this Clap of
infantile remittants is of an irritable
kind depending upon difficult den-
tition Modified and Aggravated
By Gastrointestinal irritation
Treatment

The treatment in this Disease should
be modified according to symptoms
as they develop themselves. In the
first place the Mouth should be
examined, if the gums be swollen and
tender & of a livid Colour they should
be divided freely down to the advan-
cing teeth, the Bowels should be
emptied freely with an Eye to the
biliary organs. The most suitable
Purgative is Calomel it should
be given in a purgative dose, but
if it fails to operate in four or

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Five hours it should be followed with
a suitable Dose of castor oil Syrup
Rhubarb or Magnesia, and the Bowels
should be opened dayly, the Patient
should be put upon alterative
doses of Calomel Combined with
Sneecacantha for several days or
until the discharges assume a
healthy bilious Character, the
Calomel should be given in doses
of from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 grain to $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a
grain of Sneecac every three or
four hours. if this fails to keep
the Bowels open you should
administer dayly a suitable
Cathartic, if it is of a full pleth-
oric habit with high Fever it
will be advisable to bleed freely
from the arm or cups to the

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Temples and leeches at the same time,
Cold applications to the with
warmth to the extremities. The
warm Bath is a valuable auxiliary
to the treatment of this disease.
place the Child in warm water up to
the waist and keep it in the Bath
some ten or fifteen minutes if
this fails to curtail the febrile
symptoms it will be advisable
to repeat the bleeding with
sinapisms to the feet ancles
and wrist with diaphoretics such
as Nitro with antimony or the Citrate
of potash with antimony Spts
Mindereri or tincture Beratrunc
viride from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 Drop every two hours
in water after an adequate abstra-
ction of Blood, a Blister to the Back

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of the neck or behind the ears is a valuable
adjunct to this treatment. The
effects of opium in this disease is
of doubtful efficacy, in some cases
it is undoubtedly a pernicious
Remedy increasing the derangement
of the Brain, in other instances it is
a valuable Remedy. When there is
much Cerebral derangement with
a full pulse, with flushed cheeks,
Cold extremities, it is undoubtedly
contra indicated; but when the pulse
are weak and feeble, the countenance
pale and shrunken a disposition
to diarrhoea with restlessness;

Opium is highly important, it quiets
the little sufferer, the pulse becomes
fuller softer and slower, the
skin becomes warmer and the child

sleeps sweet and awakes much refreshed.
 the best mode of administering this
 Remedy is in union with Calomel or
 in the form of Dover's powders, or in
 union with Veratrum viride, &c
 after the subsidence of the acute
 form this disease, and the case
 assumes a chronic form, exercise in
 the open air is highly beneficial,
 the diet should be of the lightest
 and blandest articles, its Mothers
 Milk if it is still at the Breast is the
 best, but if weaned, Cows Milk with
 water and white sugar or preparations
 of arrow root and sago. When the Bowels
 become swollen and tympanitic
 the Turpentine preparation will be
 beneficial or the Balsamic
 Mixtures will be of service

Remittants of Children after Dentitions

This modification of Remitting Fever rarely occurs previous to the second year and is evidently associated with derangements of the Chylipoetic system; or gastrointestinal irritation, in some the disease comes on suddenly in consequence of a loaded state of the stomach & Bowels or the use of indigestible articles of food: The child complains of feeling unwell and loinges about, is fretful and complains of chilliness and is soon attacked with vomiting and febrile reaction speedily supervenes; The skin becomes dry & hot, a great thirst for cold water but when tapered is soon rejected from the

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stomach; the pulse very frequent full
and corded, the Child very restless
and complains of pain in the
head Back stomach & Bowels.
Toward morning there is a slight
remission, the skin becomes
moist and cool; there is not such
a thirst for water, the pulse less
frequent and softer, there is not
so much head ache. the Child is
more lively & cheerful and is in-
clined to sit up or play about,
but has a very little disposition
to eat. these symptoms are of short
duration. pain in the head is
constant for the first few days.
The Bowels is costive during the
first few days, nausea & vomiting
are a constant symptom;

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and after each spell of vomiting
the head ach is greatly relieved, after
the disease has continued for some
days the patient is apt to remain
in a drowsy state Pieping the nose
and lips untill they become very
raw & sore. a case of this kind if
not early subdued is apt to run
a tedious course, the abdomen
becomes tympanitic, and black
sordes collect about the teeth,
and the Bowels when purged
throw off a large biliated matter
and it is very offensive. Much
more frequently this fever comes
on in a gradual manner, the
shild begins to droop, its
countenance becomes pale with
an expression of languor,

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The pulse frequent and small, the
extremities cool while the head is hot.
in the evening there is considerable
febrile action and the child is fretful
and falls into a disturbed sleep.
On the intervals the child is peartier
and disposed to play, the tongue is
slightly coated with a thin white
fur, some thirst, the appetite depressed,
the bowels torpid. though in some
instances the bowels are frequent and
watery and very offensive with very
little or no bile in them. This state of
things will generally prove in this
slow and gradual manner for
some eight or ten days, when
suddenly this disease assumes
a more violent type, the paroxysm
of fever is very violent,

the pulse is very frequent & corded, the
countenance is flushed and drawings
is much increased: in this stage of the
disease there is an entire coating of
food Digestion appears entirely
suspended. and the tongue is covered
with a thick dark brown or black
fur; there is a slight remission
in the morning but very short &
imperfect, the child is in a drowsy
state all the time and is with
difficulty aroused, but as the case
advances delirium supervenes, the
child peeps at the bed clothes, is
very restless, tossing itself about,
starts up suddenly and screams
out, towards a fatal termination
Convulsions & paralysis of one side
Strabismus or deep coma occurs.

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The exciting causes of the present form of
Infantile remittants are improper food,
Torpidity of the bowels, worms, irritated
or acrid secretions from the liver,
Cold & moisture deficient attention
to cleanliness. Most all writers agree
that the primary irritation is
located in the stomach & bowels with
disordered functions of the Biliary
organs. --- Treatment

From the symptoms and causes of
this fever, the first object that
presents itself in the treatment of
this disease is to thoroughly empty
the stomach & bowels of their irritated
secretions, and irritating and indig-
estible articles of food. The second,
is to correct the Biliary secretions,
to obviate cerebral irritation, and

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Finally to moderate the excessive action of the heart & arteries, In cases that comes on suddenly after eating some indigestible articles of food or of overcrowding the stomach, the administration of an Emetic, and after the stomach is thoroughly emptied it should be followed with an active Cathartic, and will put a speedy termination to this disease the irritating causes thus run on before they have excited a fixed inflammatory action and then speedily subsides. In the second modification of this disease Emetics & cathartics will not answer so well nevertheless in the commencement of this disease if there is reason to suspect indigestible and irritating articles

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of food in the stomach and Bowels or irritating and offensive materials in the Primæiæ, more especially when there is nausea the exhibition of an Emetic generally produces a beneficial effect. The Bowels in the first place should be emptied and kept open daily, this should be accomplished by the administration of From four to six grains of Calomel followed in a few hours by a suitable dose of sulphate Magnesia, scidlety, powders or Castor oil & Turpentine, one table spoonfull of oil, 30 drops of Turpentine may be given every two or three hours until free discharges are procured from the Bowels. Calomel is the most important

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Remedy we have in this Disease. both as
a purgative and an alterative, after
the Bowels have been freely evacuated
Calomel should be given regularly
with a view to its Constitutional
effect, it should be given in small
doses, four or five times in the
twenty four hours and its
aperient effect promoted largely
by a suitable dose of Epsom salts
or a sedative powder. The best mode
of giving Calomel is in union
with Opocuanha, from five to
ten grains of the former to $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2
grains of the latter, in combination
with pulverised antimonials,
this should be given until active
Evacuations assume a more
natural appearance, after which

the Calomel should be given at longer
 intervals, if in the Commencement of the
 Fever the pulse be full active and quick
 blood should be drawn from the arm
 in sufficient quantity to make a
 decided impression upon the pulse;
 if there is much Pain in the head,
 a few Cups should be applied to the
 Temples and Cold water applied to
 the head. If after the Bowels have
 been thoroughly evacuated and
 the Biliary Organs assumes a
 healthy action as indicated by
 the appearance of the Stools
 discharges and there is a remission
 in the Fever, the pulse less frequent
 full and soft, the skin moist &
 Cool. quinine should be administer-
 ed in such quantities as to

produce its Soudorific effects to a
 child two years old. six grs will
 suffice to be given in two portions.
 If the pulse rise in frequency
 and force and not too much as
 to preclude its use entirely,
 it will be well to combine Pulvers
 Antimonial with the quinine
 or Citrate Potash with a few drops
 of antimonial wine, the Nitrate of
 potash with a small portion
 of Tartaremetic will answer
 very well. You will accomplish
 much by giving quinine in the
 Remission. You will lengthen
 the Remission and make it
 more complete, and shorten
 the febrile exacerbations and
 by following it up daily, the

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Fever will entirely give way, the skin will be moist and cool, the pulse slower full and soft. In the latter stage of this Fever the Bowels become distended swollen and tight filled with gas, to expell this Gas it affords Considerable relief, to accomplish this an Enema of *Apopoetida* with warm applications to the abdomen in the form of poultices Opium is sometimes advisable in this disease. and at other times is decidedly pernicious when the Brain is much involved Opium will be decidedly injurious but when the irritation is decidedly of an irritable & symptomatic kind of gastro intestinal irritation. The pulse becomes softer & slower,

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the skin moist and of a natural
Temperature, and the patient falls
into a quiet sound sleep, as
soon as the system is under the
influence of opium. In the latter
period of this disease when
the Patient is occasionally
depressed and occasionally
restless & unable to sleep
during the night. Opium in
some form administered
about night produces a happy
effect, the patient falls into
a quiet sleep and sleeps
most of the night and awakens
in the morning much
refreshed, In many instances
of fever Patients convales very
slow.

Mild Tonics are highly beneficial,
 a weak infusion of Bayberries
 Columbo will answer for this
 purpose. The diet should be of
 the lightest and of the least
 irritable kind, such as chicken
 Rice Chicken soup with Rice
 Lamb Kid and any of the
 Farinaceous preparations
 will be profitable:

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