

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Inflammation

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BY

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Inflammation

The Term Inflammation is derived from the Latin word Inflammo to inflame, every part of the body is liable to its attacks, not only is the body liable to it, but it is the most common disease extant, it is common to both sexes, and at all ages, also it is common in all climates, it often occurs in youth, between the ages of one and fifteen, and I can venture to assert, that no one has attained the age of fifteen, who has not to a greater or less extent, been subject to some of its innumerable forms, and another fact important to mention, is that

it, delights most in the seasons
 of the year, embracing winter
 and spring, and like electricity
 supports with a more vigorous
 energy, the quality of its calling
 in moist, rather than in dry
 regions. It is useless for me to state,
 that both sex are the subjects of
 inflammation, but we should,
 think, the female, its favorite victim,
 from several reasons, of which I will
 not mention, we also know that it
 acts with greater violence, and is more
 frequent in the young, than in
 those of a more advanced age.
 Inflammation is a subject which opens
 before us, a vast field for a beautiful
 speculation, and since we cannot
 by the present surgery, embrace,

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all its entire extent, we
hope we may be pardoned
if we treat it a little at
variance, with the style of
those who have gone before
us, One source of the vast
interest which the subject
exerts in us, is its immediate
association with the wonderful
structure of the human body,
and the vast influences and
changes it effects in the
animal economy, also its
effects upon different organs
and those effects varying from
the slightest degree of intensity
to the most intense morbid
action. We shall next notice
the local symptoms that

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accompany inflammation, These are
Heat, Pain, Redness, and swelling.
These are the general signs of
inflammation, and if they do
not all exist in all cases, still the
greater number do exist, and they
are liable to vary according to the
nature of the exciting cause, and
the character of the part affected,
sometimes one, and sometimes another
of these symptoms are absent, with
the exception of one, which is Redness
which (according to my opinion) is
never absent in inflammation
it sometimes exists without any of
the others being present, but on
to the prominent signs.

and the first, and only one of which
we shall notice, is that of Redness

The redness of an inflamed part presents various shades, from the slightest blush of red, to that of the deepest purple, though this depends upon the structure of the part affected, there being some tissues which contain a small quantity of blood, these I admit are never much discolored when affected with this disease, as for instance the Ligaments and Cartilages, there are others which contain a considerable quantity and are therefore highly discolored as the mucous lining of the intestinal canal, fibrous membranes and membranes of others, though redness is indispensable to inflammation, yet all redness cannot be considered as such, for

This reason, redness may be artificially instigated, by the application of various chemical or mechanical Stimuli, or momentary redness blushing or momentary redness every part of the body being liable to this in health, it varies both in form color and extent yet, whatever form it may assume, whatever may be its extent, or duration, the immediate or approximate cause of it is an unnatural influx of blood in the capillars, the red globules being admitted in greater number than when in the sound state, as we have suggested one symptom of inflammation which is redness, we will not mention

The other local symptoms,
hoping that you may infer
from what has been said on
redness, that we understand the
latter three, which is Heat, Pain
and Swelling, therefore we
will in a multiplicity of cases
look to other sources, which
are of as great interest to us, as
the past signs of inflammation,
then we will devote our attention
to a variety of inflammations, which
have symptoms peculiar to themselves
I will enumerate a few, but by no
means shall I enter into a detailed
account of them; They are as follows
And first, of inflammation of the
skin, the character of the pain
here is prurient and smarting,

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often There is a great effusion of
serum in the cellular Tissue, it
appears in a variety of forms,
and is modified by a variety
of circumstances, if the constitution
be vigorous it may be called Tonic
but if the Constitution be in a
weakened and debilitated condition
it is called Atonic inflammation
There is another variety called Irritable
and in this variety, the Nervous
System principally suffers.

Constitutional Symptoms
of inflammation. Of this
symptom, I shall only remark
that it is only when inflammation
is violent, that the constitution is
much affected, and as we know
The most important constitutional

Symptom is that of an increased action of the heart, and arteries, The full pulse, and buffy coat of the blood, or in other words when the system becomes in a weakened and debilitated state, the blood itself becomes changed in inflammation, and the red particles separating from the fibrin, and forming what is called the buffy coat. I will say no more upon constitutional symptoms.

Next to the Causes of this disease. I shall merely refer you to only a few of the causes of inflammation, and these are predisposing and exciting, and they act both directly and

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indirectly, directly, when it acts
upon an inflamed part, and
indirectly when it acts by means
of sympathy, its effects are
different in different constitutions
and different temperaments and
spirits of life, The influence of
particular climates, the use of
particular kinds of foods which
will render the body peculiarly
liable to inflammation, in the
sanguinous temperament there is
a predisposition to it, bad air,
close confinement, copious evacuation
bad diet, depression of body and
fatigue of mind, the frequent
exhibition of Mercury, and in
fact, previous disease of any
kind will dispose to it,

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The exciting causes of inflammation are numerous, the most common is that of cold, this produces inflammation in several ways, by increasing the action in one part; and exciting a corresponding increase of action in another at some distance from the part first acted upon, secondly rendering the body more liable to be acted upon by other stimuli thirdly, by exciting inflammation immediately, and directly, I believe that it is a generally acknowledged fact, that the sudden application of cold immediately after being heated, is a more frequent cause of inflammation, than the application of heat after cold, I suppose this is owing in part to the perspiration

being so suddenly checked, and the
fatigue of the body. Pressure, friction and
all external injuries are exciting causes
of inflammation, also the absorption
of mortific portions are Causes.

We next notice the Diagnosis
of inflammation. When an invisible
part is inflamed, there is always
more or less pain increased on sudden
pressure, if there be pyrexia, Thirst or
furred tongue, &c, &c, accompanying
the pain, we may rest assured that
there is inflammation, though a part
be inflamed, gradual pressure may
sometimes be borne, and at other
times, the very slightest pressure
may cause the most excruciating
pain, when there is no inflammation,
in neuralgia for instance, if doubt

be entertained in forming a diagnosis, though there be pain or pressure, also fever, if the patient's system can bear it, than you would be justifiable in treating it as inflammation.

Next to the Prognosis, of inflammation in forming our prognosis, several things should be taken into consideration.

First, the age of the patient. The strength, and vigor of the constitution, The violence of the disease, its duration. The degree of disposition to it, and the vitality of the organ in which it is seated, also much depends upon the age and constitution of the patient, his mode of living, if temperate in his other habits. With a vigorous constitution the disease is not so apt to prove fatal.

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us in diseas'd persons, with a weakened
and debilitated system, much
also depends upon the intensity
of the disease, and its liability to
increase, also on its seat. for an
exceedingly violent inflammation
in an extremity would not be
near so dangerous, as one less violent
in the Liver or Intestines, any
sibi-synergasy, which may exist in
the individual must be taken into
consideration, for I have seen some persons
in whom the slightest wound would
be weeks, yes months in healing,
whereas the same wound in others
would be a source of no inconvenience
whatsoever. And last but not least
we take up the Treatment, of
Inflammation Our first object

in view is the Lancet, we take
 blood both local and general,
 and by this the quantity of blood
 circulating in the system is
 diminished, also the strength
 and frequency of the action
 of the heart and arteries, there
 is no stated quantity of blood
 to be drawn, this varies according
 to the violence of the disease
 the temperament, the strength
 and the health of the patient, the
 structure, functions, and inclinations
 of the part affected. Bleeding may
 be performed in any part of the body
 the object of which is to make as
 great an impression on the system
 by a given loss of blood as possible,
 therefore it is advisable to make

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Make a large orifice in the vessel,
and to make our patient stand er-
ect up so that he may faint quickly
if the blood be drawn with great
rapidity a far greater effect is
produced than if it had been drawn
slowly. when in the erect posture the
blood finds more difficulty in returning
to the heart, and escapes more easily
from it, than when a recumbent
position. In inflammation of an
internal part the effect of bleeding,
and the necessity of a repetition must
be judged from the feelings, and
continuance of pain, from the state
of the pulse, also from the appearance
of the blood last drawn, a partial,
and in some instances a complete
cessation of pain takes place, when

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during the operation of venesection,
This is of course a favourable symptom,
again the pain does not cease for
some time after bleeding, sometimes
it is not relieved at all, in this
case if the other systems remains
unaffected, venesection must be carried
almost to syncope, but the rule
for extracting blood in general is
not by quantity, but always for
effect, being regulated by the
nature of the remote cause, by which
the inflammation has been induced,
by the season, and climate, by the
period of the disease, by a knowledge
of his former disease, and the effect
of bloodletting in them, by the appearance
of the blood itself, by the nature of the
disease, prevailing in the country at the time

and finally by the effects of the first bleeding. I should suppose that immediately after a general bleeding, that local bleeding would be of material benefit. Though it should never supersede general bleeding, if the latter should be necessary, we should make a decided impression upon the system by general depletion, then the local immediately afterwards will be of a decided advantage, bleeding some distance from the part affected is often of great utility.

Next to bleeding is Purgings. The saline purgatives are most commonly used in the beginning of this disease, always using those which produce but little irritation.

Purgatives are beneficial in several ways. First, by evacuating the intestines of irritating faeces, and by producing counter irritation in a part distant from the inflammation, but in inflammation of the intestines and stomach great care should be taken in their administration. A purgative should be regulated by the violence of the disease, also by the strength of the patient to whom they are given. We will merely state that Emetics and Diaphoretics are occasionally called for in the treatment of inflammation. The application of cold water, or ice is of the utmost importance in some forms of inflammation. See diet, total abstinence from all stimulating.

diets, or drinks, bread, and water barley
 should be allowed in the form of craker.

Mercury, is of great use in inflammation
 and should be used only after the extraction
 of blood, it may be given to slight
 ptyalism, then should be discontinued
 Opium, in full doses after venesection
 is sometimes recommended except when
 contraindicated, In the local
 treatment inflammation, the limb
 must be in an elevated position
 and if the inflammation be in
 an extremity, Cold applications
 blisters, poultices, etc, etc, should
 be employed, I should, after this
 treat the symptoms in general.
 I deem it unnecessary for me
 to give the Termination of inflammation.
 therefore I shall desist from the useless task.