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AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Dysentery

SUBMITTED TO THE
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OF THE
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FOR THE DEGREE OF
Doctor of Medicine.

BY

Duff Hale

OF

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Dysentery

In surveying the vast field of the Medical Science in search of a subject for my Thesis, I have seen proper to select that of Dysentery being one of much practical importance.

Dysentery is inflammation of the Mucous Membran of the Colon and Rectum. Acute Dysentery the disease may occur with or without premonitory symptoms. In the former case it is preceded by general uneasiness impaired appetite dull pains in the abdomen costiveness or diarrhoea, occasionally the local symptoms make their appearance before those of a general character. In mild cases run its course without fever. we are presented in different cases of Dysentery with a

regular gradation in severity from a very slight affection, occupying but a small portion of the Colon and Sigmoid, without fever, and passing in a few days up to the most dangerous form of disease to which the human frame is liable.

On the beginning of Simple Dysentery there are generally griping pains in the abdomen irregular in their position and attended with discharges from the bowels by which they are partially relieved. after a while a sense of weight is felt in the rectum with painful inclination to go to stool without evacuating anything more than a little bloody mucus. This feeling of tenesmus increases until at length becomes the worst feature in the case the calls to stools are very frequent

3 attended with much straining
so much so sometimes to produce
prolapsus Anni. The passages
are seldom less than a dozen in
twenty four hours often double
that number

After the first few evacuations
the stools are small consist of
a transparent whitish mucus
mixed with blood

as the complaint advances shreds
of false membran or small masses
of coagulated matter are occasionally
intermingled and in some instan-
ces Scybala are discharged though
these are less common than might
be infered from many published
accounts of Dysentery; the bladder
and uretra sometimes sympathize
with the Rectum and along with
Tenesmus there is frequent and

and difficult micturition. There is more or less tenderness in the Abdomen. The extent of the disease can sometimes be traced by ascertaining what parts pain is produced on pressure. There is always Fever unless in cases of very small extent. The pulse is full some what accelerated. Skin hot and dry with scanty Tongue dry and covered with a whitish fur secretion of bile diminished

The patient experiences a hollow ness or sinking in the Abdomen attended sometimes with nausea and vomiting.

In vast majority of cases the disease takes a favorable turn between six and ten days. The patient has through a very small and thread like fully pale and clammy skin

anxious features and somewhat livid
or purplish appearance under the
Eyes and about the lips and at the
roots of the nails with much tormina
and tenesmus incessant discharges.
tumed Abdomen with great tender-
ness on pressure. Such cases prove
fatal in a few days though they
are very rare. according to some
Authors occur only during Epidem-
ics. Should the symptoms not give
way in a week they are all apt
to become aggravated. The Abdomen
becomes swollen more tender. The
discharges more frequent the
puls weaker and more rapid
the Tongue assumes a dryish appear-
ance throats of its fur becomes red
the patient is exhausted the stools
are more copious instead of being

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mucus are sometimes nothing
but blood, even after the worst
of these symptoms the patient may
recover though the convalescence
slow and tedious
in most cases of Dysentery the
bilious secretions are diminished
occasionally disorder of the stomach
and liver attend the disease
from the beginning sometimes
called Billious Dysentery.

Dysentery is not infrequently
associated with other diseases.

it is very common in miasm-
-atic countries during intermittent
and remittent fevers some-
-times appearing as a distinct
disease. when a decided fever
preceded by a chill has existed
one two or three days before

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The Dysentery begins there can
be little doubt as to the nature
of the case. the fever is aggravated
at certain times every day or every
other day in the intervals relaxes
or entirely intermits the
Dysenteric symptoms undergoing
the same change to a certain
degree. Typhoid is another form
of the disease which occurs in
individuals previously
exposed to wet and cold
unwholesome diet fatigue
and sickness of every kind
combined with contaminated
atmosphere to prostrate the
vital powers. nausea and
vomiting great thirst a frequent
and feeble pulse a brown
tongue sordes about the teeth

a dusky skin sometimes hot
and sometimes cold dark
lived spots brown black
stools more copious than
in the simple disease
sometimes hemorrhagic dischar-
ges consisting of coagulable
blood. all of these symptoms
are not found in every case
but sufficient to indicate
the character of the affection.
in the worst cases the patient
appears to be struck with death
in the beginning and the
disease proves fatal in a few
days

when Dysentery is about to
terminate favorably. the pain
becom less frequent the stools
becom more copious and less

9 frequent and assume
a focal or bilious character
at length nothing but a
slight diarrhoea remains
which soon ceases. On the contrary
a sudden cessation of the torm-
ina and tenesmus. coldness
of the extremities a purpleish
hue about the nails a very
frequent and irregular pulse
hicough involuntary stools
delirium subcutaneous tenderness
are symptoms of the unfavorable
kind and together produce a
speedy and fatal termination.

Treatment: In very mild
cases without fever it is very
often sufficient to give a sin-
gle dose of castor oil with
twenty five or thirty drops of

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Sarcodanum if the case be
of a somewhat higher grade
a dose of Calomel may be
given followed by castor oil
in a few hours. If there should
be evidences of a loaded stomach
and emetic may be given with
The Calomel should the
symptoms increase and fever
with a strong puls. Abdominal
pains. Blood should be taken
moderately from the arm. after
the patient is bled and
purged he may be allowed
to rest awhile on cooling
drinks refrigerant diaphoretic
if the skin be hot and dry
should the disease not seem
disposed to yield to this treatment

By the sixth or seventh day the mercurial plan should be carried to slight salivation and at the same time if local symptoms are violent a blister should be applied to the Abdomen. The Billious variety requires a more energetic employment of mercurial remedies Calomel may be given in doses of fifteen or twenty grains daily or five grains three or four times a day until some impression is made on the mouth in Dysentery associated with intermittent or remittent fever The same course of treatment should be pursued as in the common form so far as regards

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the bowel affection; but it is highly important also to bear in mind the indications presented by the general disease. The most striking of these is for the use of measures calculated to prevent the return of the paroxysm, and no remedy is so effectual for this purpose as Peruvian bark or sulphate of quinia, in the Typhoid form. The bowels should be kept clear of irritating or depressing matter. This should be effected by medicine calculated rather to support than to weaken such as infusion or tincture of rhubarb or castor oil

with oil of turpentine in
small doses

it is often necessary to support
the strength of the patient
by stimulants and nutritive
drinks such carbonate ammonia
wine rye wine and water
brandy and water sulphate
of quina oil of turpentine
egg and wine &c in hemor-
rage from the bowels acetate
of lead combined with opium
and kino is perhaps the
most effectual remedy