An essay on inflammation. Furneby submitted to the President, Board of Trustees, and Medical Faculty of the University of Nashville, for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, by Albert Thaddeus Dillard of Florida, January the 30th 1857.
The following pages with all the imperfections that may present themselves is dedicated to the Medical Faculty of the University of Nashville. Both as a token of my highest regards as gentleman and instructor, and as a duty-devolving on the students, trusting all inaccuracies may the over-looking, it is submitted.
Inflammation

is chosen

as the subject of any thesis because of the frequency of its occurrence, and a subject calling on the physician as well as the surgeon, and as yet it is a theme which holds physicians, and avowedly theorist-in-ane. The mind of every physician has pondered upon it, and every theorist thus gone astray in the wide, wide and inviting field of inflammations and each have returned and laid their trophies at the feet of the medical altar, there to blend awhile and then sink into insignificance. Theories have thus risen and fallen...
in Arabic success in for past hundreds of years, each having the support of warm and able advocates. Well might this medical name be strong to signify this devastating yet beautiful phenomenon. What has greater claims to the assistance of investigation of the medical world than this? For, there is no disease that claims man as its sort of destruction, that is not attended by inflammation, with "ache in hand" to light its origination to a destructive focus. Inflammation is truly a field abounding in sources and wreaths. How many noble minds have gone into it, upon the highest peaks
and Convent Colleges, and then laboured hard and long to extract from their hidden treasures true theories to place before the investigating eye of a critical world. But alas! soon some brighter star comes in train, and with its light eclipses our neighbours great and only Beast! and thus they, after being fades away, as do the flowers of summer, before the withering blasts of winter, and we of the present age can only take in turn, all that this beam accumulates out of the weeks of former systems and derive them from the Rest. Sooner
Points, combine them together, and thus assume a thing more probably true.

Inflammation is a disease of the capillary system.

It behooves me at this point to give some of the most prominent theories before the medical profession. In the first place, I shall mention that of Barre, which is old, yet not entirely overturned by the investigation of more modern times. And in no other there are truths inescapable, sure, in this old thing. To the accumulation of the nineteenth century, which supposes that inflammation consists essentially in
an obstructed state of the capillaries of the affected part, produced by some paroxysm of the blood, or by the entrance of red globules of blood into vessels not fitted for their conveyance. This thing existed on the belief that the punguineous particles are remarkably complicate in their structure, to wit, each and one consisting of fifty two, and each serum of as many lymphatics. For the conveyance of which, three kinds of tubules, were imagined, as channels of communication between the arteries and veins, and by these different structures of
The circulating mass, getting into a wrong vessel, might easily produce inflammation, by the obstruction of the canal.

Cullen conceived the idea that inflammation was merely a spasmodic contraction of the small vessel, interrupting the passage of the blood.

This act, he supposed, to be sometimes the effect of direct activity, and sometimes, moreover, that there was frequently a peculiar condition, which received from him the name physiologic dilatation, and which he thinks is productive of inflammatory action. Another was that ad-
vance of the Voca, an Nation who maintained the belief, that inflammation invariably results from "Turgidness, congestion, attended by more or less dilution of the affected part." This step in the process is dilatation of the Capillaries, which allows them to be anomalously distended by the passage of the blood through them in undue proportions, and to this in excess quantily of blood, the ascribe "Pain, Heat, Swelling and Redness," which are always more distinctly marked, in proportion to the dilatation of the minute arteries and...
virus, the violence of the exciting cause, and the natural vascularity of the part affected.

Since the time of Baco, the theory of diminished power of the vessels, has been warmly advocated by some distinguished pathologists. The experiments of whom tend to show that inflammation consists essentially in weakened action of the capillaries, by which the balance between them and the large vessels is lost, and congestion is the result. Other pathologists oppose these views, and adopt the belief that the primary cause of this disease, consist--in an increased
action of the vessels. And right between these latter two theories, I set up my flag, deducing from the one and adding to the other. Thus forming from the limited information I have on the subject the most plausible thing. There must be an exciting cause, either direct or indirect. This cause being applied to the nerves of the part, a new or irregular action is superinduced in the action of the capillaries of the part implicated. This action is an increased one, as is establi
As upon the application of the
immolation, the blood is con-
verted into violent commotion
This last for a certain length of
time, and their debility en-
creases in the capillaries them-
sew, while the action in the large
vessels leading to the affected
part, is not retarded, but seem-
ingly is increased, accompanied
by congestion of the extreme
vessels, as an inevitable conse-
guence, being in the first
occasion engorged by the blood
invited to the part by the
immolation. By virtue of the aug-
mented action, it devolves up-
on them, acting as its direct
stimulus to the muscular
coats of these collateral vessels, and next distended because of the debility into which they have been induced by their previous distension, consequent upon the irritating cause; these changes take place in such rapid succession, that they seem to occur simultaneously. A change in the sensibility and irritability of the capillary system would seem essential to the production or existence of in-flammation; for when the vital properties remain in their normal condition, preternatural determination to a part, does not constitute disease, but mere flushing of the
part, as is often seen in the act of blushing, merely "dilatation", and not disease, unless there be absence of blood in the part, which is nothing but the entrance of more blood by the arteries than can be carried off by the veins. And congestion may occur, and no serious change in the parts take place, as manifested in erection of the penis, and mammary, in the chest,instance what might be called a physiological action, and in the lasting action produced by spirit in the parts. Therefore, a pathological result. Therefore we see that irritation is the forerun of inflammation.
convenience. Thus as irritation is the first cause of inflammation, as we have before stated, the violence of the inflammation will be proportionate to the violence of the irritation. While may be of various forms, agreeing in all cases, in regard to its severity, with the instrument of its induction, the blood that is at first present is the effect, because of the irritation cause, which must wound the delicate coats of the vessels, then this is another source of inflammation being as efficient in the maintenance of inflammation.
him as is the primitive cause
in its gradation. The thing
of Overhoose originated when
the minds of some credul
were swayed by ingenious hypothesis,
there can be no doubt of well-
established facts. But Overhoose
without sudden to guide him
through the illimitable ocean,
that opened out before him,
conceived out on its
dilly and unfathomable
depth, and thus encircled
this name with a "Holy of
Glory" to the Latit-Coskity
get some may say. Those were
the days in which hypothesis
written in its wildest exuberance
But now the cycles of their empire has
gene Q., and salivary induction is now the only fact by which the falsity of science, forces forward to conquer in the field of knowledge. Cullen's thing has been entirely overthrown. No doubt, and in fact, the Capillaries are at first contracted. The Cullen seems to have thought that they remained so, for he says "That inflammation is simply of parasitic contraction of the Capillaries," the contraction himself, in his own words, in these words, "that this contraction is due to direct efficacy. Now, my understanding of the efficacy, as went of tone, which is relaxation, and if my
conception the correct? it would
the rather remaining to a sum
imagination, to see how any-
thing could the contraction
and related at the same time.

In the next place, the causes
of inflammation will be no-
iced, which may be divided
into exciting and predispos-
ing. Among the predisposing
causes, (as it seems most natu-
ral to consider these first) may
be enumerated, a debilitated or
augmenting condition of the vital
properties, among which, fatigue
may be mentioned as one a-
among the more prolific of this
Of this brings about the condition, attributed by Cullen "philosophic dialysis." The exciting causes are the agents that determine the blood to a particular part; the effects of this determination being regulated by the previous condition of the patient. It seems necessary to mention all the agents acting in this manner. Hence I at once turn to the symptom by which inflammation is recognized; the principle of which have been handed down from the days of antiquity which as an enumeration by Celsus four. "rubor et tumor cum calor et dolorem," yet neither
are unequivocal. When there is much inflammation there is always more or less distin-
guishment of the circulatory sys-

tem, which is manifested by.

Fullness and bounding

pulse, and generally more

or less disturbance of the

cerebral system. There is

what is termed Tuffy

sent on the chest after

anesthesia. The chest is

hyperpneic. The above

are the principal diagnostic

marks. The terminations of

this disease, as outlined by

most authors, are four to wit:

resolution, suppuration, necrosis

and mortification, to which
some add. effusion of some metastasis. But it would appear that resolution is the only termination. If this might be added cicatrisation, all the others being the results; it is true that metastasis is a termination of inflammation in the part, but might be with equal propriety be denominated an origin. There is a mere translation to another part. The treatment of inflammation is variable in accordance with the degree or character of the inflammation where it is of an acute form one should resort to proper dietetic regulations, and if this does not suf-
Fire. Sanguatin is one among our efficient remedies. Colchicum or Blue Nop, is generally selected because of its de-
febrileizing quality. Mep— and
tely drained in which one
of our most powerful rem-
edies, in cases attended by
inflammation action. Colchi-

mep should in all cases be
observed, with such in-frac
aplications as may seem
indicated. In cases where
the inflammation action is
of an evilulent character
we should convert the ulcer
into a 'healthful one', or change
at least, its character. This is
accomplished by the application
of stimuli and nutrition. By
with such general principles, all
most all inflammations can
be successfully combated, with
such other deviations as each
case may present.