

AN  
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

*Rubeola, or Measles.*

SUBMITTED TO THE

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## Rubeola, or Measles:

Measles is an eruptive disease propagated by contagion, described by Rhase in the ninth century; and it was confounded with variola in the days of the ancients, and even put in the category with that disease. The ancients thought that it was a modified Smallpox. They observed the pimples were not so large nor so highly elevated as they were in Smallpox; and they called this Morbilli. they knew it to make its appearance at the place where Smallpox had prevailed as an epidemic, and they knew it to go the same direction that Smallpox went when it prevailed there; from the resemblance the pimples of measles

lore to those of Smallpox and the  
manner in which it had in proceed-  
ing; they thought that it was a  
modification of that disease, and since  
then it has been named Rubella.  
from its red appearance; and it was  
for a long time confounded with  
Scarlatina. because it bore some  
resemblance to that disease in color  
and appearance. Inoculation. this  
has been resorted to in order to  
protect the system from the  
susceptibility of the disease. the  
inoculation produced the desired  
effect but did not protect the system  
from the susceptibility of the disease.  
and inoculation has been resorted to  
in order to arrest the disease in its  
progress, but it availed nothing.

Measles is one of the most contagious of all diseases; it can be propagated from a person before the person has any symptoms of the disease, after having received the poison in the system, and it may be communicated from one person to another after the person has gotten well of it for as long a time as seven days, undoubtedly the disease stays in the system longer after it has apparently subsided than any other disease almost known.

The most prominent symptoms of Measles are as follows.

commencing with chilliness, Stupidity, pains in the limbs, irritation of the nose, which promotes great sneezing, irritation of

the eyes, and a copious flow of  
tears from them, irritation of the  
posterior part of the Mouth, and  
Larynx, and considerable dryness of  
those parts, Measles has a great  
tendency to affect Mucous Membranes,  
es. in children the Mucous Membranes  
appear to be more affected than they  
are in adults. the child may be  
very much disturbed, from the  
irritation of important parts. the child,  
Sneezes very much, so much, as  
sometimes, to bring on epistaxis.  
there will be tightness of the  
chest, and difficult breathing,  
and more or less stupidity, along  
with those symptoms. the rash  
generally, makes its appearance in  
about seventy two hours, from

the time the fever commences, and lasts about as long as four days. the fever continues when the rash makes its appearance, and generally subsiding, when the rash begins to disappear, the febrile stage lasts about seven days. though, this may vary, in some persons, it may be longer, and in others shorter, in persons who have thick skin the rash will not break out so soon as it will in persons who have thin and tender skin. the rash, first makes its appearance on the forehead, and in the fauces, on the uvula, and tongue, appearing in little red spots, slightly elevated. after they have made their appearance in two days the whole body and

extremities, will be broken out with it. the pimples, are at first of a dark red, and slick, appearance. the cuticle somewhat elevated, the pimples will disappear when they are subjected to pressure, but, when the pressure is removed they will appear, and resume their original shape. the symptoms are very distinct, at this stage of the disease. Such, as irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, fauces, and pharynx. about this time the first pimples, begin to disappear, desquamation takes place, the cuticle separates from the adjacent parts, and new pimples soon begin to appear in their place, which are much larger, and more elevated. and they arrange themselves in patches, or clusters, and in the midst of those

clusters, a few vesicles are situated, with some sound skin encircled, by patches of the eruption, and those vesicles are situated on the edge of the sound skin. a few of them are commingled with the eruptive spots, but they are mostly situated between the sound skin and the eruptive spots. they have lymph exuded in the interior of them, which elevates them, and makes them, more perceptible, than the eruptive spots are. the symptoms now, begin to subside. especially those of the most grave type. such, as difficulty breathing, tightness about the chest, sore throat, or those symptoms may continue, and the more common ones disappear. such, as irritation of the eyes, throat, and the nose, there is a form of



Rubeola, that has none of the  
catarrhal Symptoms, that is named  
Rubeola sine catarrho. This name was  
given to it because the catarrhal  
Symptoms were absent, in this disease.  
The disease, is mostly seen where  
common Rubeola, has prevailed as an  
epidemic. it attacks persons after they  
have had Rubeola. neither of those  
diseases will protect the System from  
the other. Rubeola, is the most  
dangerous when it terminates in  
some disease of the Lungs, or of  
the alimentary canal, such as,  
Pneumonia, which affects the Lungs.  
diarrhoea, which affects the  
alimentary canal, and sometimes  
lasts a great while, even lasts,  
as long as three, or four Months.

the pneumonia, affects the fine air cells of the Lungs, the air cells are in a congested condition, which may give the person great difficulty in breathing. the irritation may continue until the lung becomes inflamed, about that time, a new fever sets in, which is more violent, the diarrhoea may be very simple, or it may be very profuse, requiring the most scientific treatment. the system may be prostrated by a disease to such a degree, that an irritant may produce a bad sore, from the irritability which the system is laboring under. the irritation caused from the bite of a leech, may terminate in a bad sore, or irritation from

the application of a blister, to any part of the body, may terminate in a very bad sore. the diagnosis of Measles is very difficult; in the commencement of the disease, it may be mistaken for almost any of the exanthematous diseases. though, the ones which it is most apt to be mistaken for are Scarlet fever, and Small pox; in Measles, when the eruption makes its appearance the fever ~~subsides~~ subsides. in Small pox it does: and the incubation of Measles, is fourteen days, Small pox only twelve, Scarlet fever four, in Measles, the eruption makes its appearance in seventy two hours, from the commencement of the fever. Small pox forty eight, Scarlet fever twenty four,

the pimples in measles make their appearance on the face first, and in two days extend over the surface of the body, and extremities. the rash in scarlet fever, makes its appearance under the clothing first, then it gradually spreads over the surface of the body, and other parts. in small pox the pains in the lumbar region, and irritability of the stomach, will in almost all cases characterize small pox, before the eruption has made its appearance. the eruptive spots in measles, are very red, in small pox, they are of a more pale colour, in scarlet fever, they are not so highly elevated, hardly perceptible to the feel, and the skin is more of a dark red colour, than it is, in

Measles; and Scarlat fever, generally locate in the fauces and posterior part of the mouth, Measles, mostly affects the Lungs, and alimentary canal; the prognosis, of Measles is almost always favorable. it is only unfavorable, in cases where it is complicated with some disease, or where it terminates in Bronchitis, Pneumonia, or Diarrhoea, or some termination to the Brain, inducing irritation, or inflammation, of that important organ. Children, generally suffer from croup, and inflammation of the Lungs, and other very important organs. Treatment. the treatment, of Measles, in its mild forms is simple, almost requiring none, only to avoid the

vicissitudes of the weather. if the bowels are constipated, or mild cathartics, merely to operate a few times, and to keep the bowels open, and low diet, demulcent drinks, are very efficient. it must be borne in mind that the disease can't be cut short, and therefore no attempt should be made to do so. keep the person from the influence of cold weather, give demulcent drinks, of almost any kind, is almost all that is required, in the mild forms of the disease. for the demulcent, some Flax seed tea, or gum arabic water, or Lemonade. when the skin is hot and dry, the Demulcents, might be added some Syrup of Opium. great advantage can be derived from the administration of

Opiae, in this way. if there is  
much cough antimonial wine,  
might be substituted for the  
Opiae Syrup. the affection of the  
Lungs may very readily be detected  
by the application of the ear to  
the Chest. if the Symptoms  
of Pneumonia, make their  
appearance, they should be treated  
like common Pneumonia; if  
Diarrhoea, makes its appearance,  
it should be treated in the  
same way, that Diarrhoea, is  
treated in the uncomplicated  
form.