

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Ulceration,

SUBMITTED TO THE
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY
OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE,

FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY

John Jobe,

OF

Ringgold, Georgia.

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24 a P.F.C.
Good - pass.

To

P. F. Eve, M.D.

Professor of Surgery, in the university
of Nashville,

as a grateful acknowledgment of the high
attainments, that have justly placed
him in the front rank of his profession,
and for his kind attentions
to the interest of the class,

These pages are respectfully
inscribed,

By

The Author,

"Ulceration" is generally defined to be the producing of a purulent solution of continuity of the soft parts of the animal body, ulcers may arise from a variety of causes, and under various circumstances, the character of ulcer varying almost as much as the cause producing it.

The most common causes of ulcer are inflammation and pressure, many other causes, are mentioned as producing ulceration, Specific poisons, such as Syphilitic or Scrofulous virus, are known to produce ulceration, The modus operandi appears to be the same, from what ever cause the ulcer is produced, all act first by irritation of the part, causing a premature afflux of blood, thereby inducing congestion of the capillaries, a mechanical obstruction, may thus be occasioned, which embarrasses and interrupts, the free circulation in the part, causing Stagnation, of

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venous blood, Superinducing inflammation, the inflamed part becomes tumefied, red and painful, the tumefaction being the result of serum having been thrown out into the cellular tissue, after the inflammation has continued for some time, small pimples form on the surface of the inflamed part, filled with serous fluid these pimples gradually discharge their contents, and inflammation being now thoroughly set up, continues secreting and discharging pus for an indefinite period, until a permanent cure is effected.

I will now report a case of extensive ulceration, as it occurred in my own case, on the 26th day of November 1857, I was so unfortunate as to meet with a Rail Road accident, by which I received a slight contusion about the middle of the tibia of the left leg, the bruise at the time appeared to be superficial, producing only a slight degree of ecchymosis, and causing but very little pain, so I gave

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it little or no attention, but attended to my ordinary
business, upto the second night after having recieved the
injury, on that night I applied some Oprodeldoc, there
being slight soreness of the cruised part of the leg,
I rested as well as usual that night, until a short time
before day, I woke up with my leg paining me very
much, upon rising from bed I found it was with great
pain and difficulty, that I could walk,

Being absent from home, and not wishing to commence
any regular course of treatment, until I could get
home, I made some soothing applications, until I
would reach home, which I did about 9 o'clock that
day, I immediately had a neighboring Physician
called in and put myself under his treatment,
he used every means in his power to arrest the infla-
mation, which by this time appeared to be fully
established, in the part, with a great tendency to
travel upwards into the muscles of the thigh.

The Physician commenced with antiphlogistic Treatment viz. Bleeding, purgation, low diet, horizontal position, with emollient poultices to the seat of the disease, this Treatment was kept up for a few days without any perceptible impression having been made on the disease, the inflammation going on unabated, he called in other Physicians, with their combined skill they were unable to arrest the inflammation, until it had reached the acetabulum, where it was arrested, During the period the inflammation was progressing so rapidly, there was the most intense suffering, the pain being of the most excruciating character, the limb became very much swollen, red, and hot, accompanying these symptoms was fever of a very high grade, with occasional delirium, When the inflammation had extended as far up as the knee, the pain ceased, the fever diminished, the part became soft, a line of demarcation formed, the part assumed a darker colour, and in a few days ~~the~~

began to slough, which process continued to proceed rapidly, until the entire Subcutaneous surface of the Tibia, as well as the Tibialis anticus, with portions of other muscles, blood vessels and nerves, had sloughed away, leaving the whole anterior part of the Tibia exposed for the space of near Twelve inches,

In the progress of the inflammation, the artery and veins of the part, were entirely destroyed or obliterated, This must have been the case as the slough extended quite to the Periosteum, and covered the whole space usually occupied by these blood vessels, and no haemorrhage taking place, is evidence that ~~the~~ vessels must have been destroyed, previous to the sloughs taking place, as the inflammation passed up towards the body, several ulcers were formed in the muscles of the thigh, which appeared to burrow beneath the Fascia Femoralis, and

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extend themselves towards the os femoris, these ulcers continued to discharge pus very freely for ~~several~~ weeks, and resulted in the entire destruction of the cellular tissue of the part, and the vastus externus, which muscle is entirely wanting in the thigh, not having been reproduced,

During the extension of the inflammation, the nervous system became so much deranged, as to cause an almost entire abolition of sensations in the affected limb, during the latter stages of the inflammation, vitality appeared to be entirely lost, in the ulcers of the thigh, as was evinced by the insensibility to strong irritants,

as vitality was restored to the ulcers of the thigh, and the process of reparation commenced, the ulcers healed up very kindly, and in a short time, leaving dark colored

Cicatrices, which remain very tender to the touch,
The treatment of the ulcers of the thigh,
consisted in injections of Tincture of Myrrh, No. 6,
Solution of Nitrate of Silver, with warm emol-
lient poultices, followed by mild dressings of Salve.

Thus much I have thought proper to say
of the ulceration of the thigh,

The main ulcer being on the anterior
part of the leg, from the knee to near the ankle
joint, which as before mentioned was caused
by the sloughing of the soft parts of the anterior
part of the leg,

The parts contiguous to the ulcer on the
leg, appeared to become almost destitute of life,
as several ulcers of vary considerable size
formed, near without any apparent cause,
one of which, was on the internal malleolus,
an other over the os calcis, both of which

continued for a considerable time, and were very difficult to heal,

as the new formations sprang up in the ulcer on the leg, in the form of small granules, which appeared to be enclosed in cells, spread over the entire surface of the sore, forming granulations, and the cavity was being filled up by the nutritive process, the veins might be very distinctly seen forming on the delicate membrane covering the granulations, the veins at first appeared to be much larger than the same vessel in a sound limb, the coats of the veins were much thinner than those of other parts, when the limb was placed ~~in~~ in a pendant position, the blood would immediately trickle down the surface of the sore, and appear to be extravasated from innumerable points on the sore, but without any perceptible opening in the

in the vessels, as soon as the limb would again be put in the horizontal position, the bleeding ceased,

a deep cavity was formed by the slough and the great tumefaction of surrounding parts, which extended to the inner part of the leg, forming a sack or pocket, which was constantly filled with pus, which rendered it difficult to heal,

Suppuration and granulation went on regularly, for some time, there being a very copious secretion of cream like pus, with a crop of healthy florid granulations, from some cause these granulations became glabrous or of a spongy texture, lost their florid color becoming of a light ash color, smooth glassy surfaces, insensible to the touch, but bleeding from the slightest friction, or irritation,

The character of the pus also changed to a thin watery discharge, resembling serum,

This condition of the ulcer continued for a considerable length of time, when by the use of different kinds of remedies, healthy granulations were again produced, and kept up for several weeks, about this time, Suppuration became very profuse, and the weather being very warm, the character the ulcer again changed, to that of an indolent ulcer, appearing loose and flabby, the texture being very spongy, and entirely insensible to the most active caustics.

These changes continued to take place for several months, during all of which time the ulcer appeared to be stationary, as regards the healing process, each successive change, appearing to require more active means to bring the ulcer to its normal condition, the vitality of the part became so much impaired, that even the actual cautery would not excite sensation in it.

I will now give the plan of treatment adopted from the time the injury was received, upto the present, as before mentioned the attending Physicians used every means in their power to combat the inflammation, and prevent-
 ulceration, or mortification, but all their efforts were of little avail, a line of demarkation was formed, the part lost its sensibility, large pimples formed on its surface, which extended into sloughs of considerable size, and at length formed the large ulcer on the leg,

The inflammation still proceeding, and by this time the system appeared to be sinking under the great irritation, pain and fever,

The Physicians then changed the course of treatment, to that of Tonics, Stimulants, and narcotics,

for this purpose they gave large portions of Brandy and opium, alternately, every

Two or three hours, this course of treatment was kept up for several days, with the best effects, there being a very marked change in all the bad symptoms, the thirst and dryness of the tongue now abated, the delirium, which up to this time had been an occasional symptom, now entirely disappeared, the fever gradually abated, and the inflammation, which had still been going on in the thigh, now abated, and all the bad symptoms gave way, and convalescence commenced, it may be proper to say, that although large quantities of opium were administered, nothing like constipation was produced by it, but on the contrary it was with difficulty, that the action of the bowels could be restrained, as the treatment of the ulcer of the thigh has already been given, it is needless to say more on that part of the subject, except to state that

previous to the formation of the ulcer in the thigh, Chloriform was applied over the seat of inflammation, and appeared to have some effect, in controlling the inflammation,

BUT to return to the treatment of the ulcer of the leg, it was treated for the first few days, by warm emollient poultices, astringent washes, &c after continuing the poultices, for some time, they were succeeded, by dressings of simple Salve, with occasional, applications of solution of nitrate of silver, and some times nitrate in substance,

This course of Treatment answered very well for some time, the sore healed up very kindly, and secreted healthy pus very freely,

After this plan of Treatment had been pursued a month or so, the remedy gradually lost its virtue the sore ceased healing, changed its character, poultices were again resorted to, but with little advantage,

The granulations assumed the character of an indolent ulcer, an effort was now made to heal the ulcer by scabing, for this purpose various remedies were resorted to, Solution of acetate of Lead, Lime water, Nitrate of Silver, actual cauterizing absorbent powders, of different kinds, Sheet Lead worn over the sore, with a variety of other applications, during the whole course of treatment, alteratives of different kinds were used, and the limb kept elevated most of the time, and kept bandaged from the toes to the knee,

after trying two or three months to cause a scab to form over the sore, and finding it of no avail I again had recourse to other means, at this time the sore was entirely lifeless, in order to restore Sensibility, I made an application of a mixture made by taking the yolk of an egg, with about half that amount of common salt, mix into

a paste, spread into a plaster, this plaster was applied twice a day for about a week, at the end of that time, the ulcer become very tender, and in a short time a fine crop of granulations sprung up, and secreted pus very freely,

The sore was then treated by dressings of simple Salve, made of Bees wax, mutton Suet, elder bark, with extract of Stramonium,

In conjunction with this treatment the bandage was kept constantly applied, tightly from the toes to the knee,

As an alterative, with this last course of treatment, I used a tincture of the Phytolacca, or Poke root, under this course of treatment, the ulcer is healing up better than from any previous course, and from ^{the appearance} of the sore now, I think it will be entirely well in a few days,

I have in a very hurried and imperfect manner detailed, a case of extensive Ulceration, I am well aware there are many imperfections, in Composition, Style, &c for which I would crave the indulgence, of the Trustees, and Faculty, as I have been compelled to write under very embarrassing circumstances, as some of you are aware, — I doubt not there ^{are} errors which I might have detected had I more time to give the subject,

I regret exceedingly not being able to present a better offering, but such as it is, I submit it, to the ordeal through which it is to pass.

John, Gobe,

Nashville, Tennessee
January 26th 1853