

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Eleven years practice

SUBMITTED TO THE

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FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY

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The present thesis is designed to give a synoptical view of my practice, from the first part of the year 1844, to the latter part of the year 1834; From the Commencement of my practical career, I have kept as faithful a record, of cases, epidemics, and epidemic influences, as my leisure hours would permit. I will first give ^{my practice} in a tabular form; and then draw such deductions as I am warranted in from the tables

	no cases	no recov	no deaths
1) <u>Idiopathic Fevers</u>			
Typhoid fever.	337	333	4
Continued Inflammatory fever.	85	85	
Remittent fever.	62	62	
Intermittent fever.	73	73	
Conjunctive fever.	3	2	1
	<u>560</u>	<u>555</u>	<u>5</u>

2) Eruptive Fevers.
 Scarlatina. (Scarlet fever)
 Rubiola. (Measles)
 Roseola.

no	no	no
cases	recov	death
110	103	7
70	70	
1	1	
<hr/>		
181	174	7

3) Diseases peculiar to females.

Parturition.
 Threatened abortion.
 Abortion.
 Prolapsus uteri.
 Polypus do.
 Bloody infiltrations of the labia.
 Retained placenta.
 Adhered do.
 Hysteritis acute.
 do chronic.
 Puerperal fever.
 Milk do.
 Puerperal convulsions.

32	32	
25	25	
18	18	
22		
1	1	
2	2	
9	9	
3	3	
5	4	1
2	2	
15	13	2
12	12	
3		3
<hr/>		
147	120	5

Leucorrhœa.	Brought over	147	120	5
		13	11	1
Amenorrhœa.		58	38	
Dysmenorrhœa.		13		
Menorrhagia. (profuse menstruation)		33	33	
uterine hæmorrhage		4	4	
Phlegmatia dolens.		2	2	
Premature labor.		9	8	1
Plethora during gestation.		11	11	
Warty growths of the labia.		1	1	
Cohesion of the do.		2	2	
do of the nymphæ.		1	1	
Mamma inflammation of the.		5	5	
do abscess. " "		3	3	
Laceration of the perineum.		1	1	
Carcinoma uteri.		2		2
		304		9

4) Diseases of the skin.

Erysipelas.		21	21	
Herpes zoster.		3	3	
Tinea capitis.		5	5	
		29	29	

Scabies. (itch)	over	29	29	
Impetigo. <i>herpetiformis</i>		13	13	
Wepes <i>Circinnatus</i>		1	1	
		58	58	
		100	100	
5) <u>Diseases of the respiratory organs.</u>				
Influenza.		57	57	
Pneumonia.		9	8	1
Pleurisy.		10	70	
Whooping Cough.		34	34	
Croup.		26	25	1
Phthisis <i>pulmonalis</i> .		8		8
Catarrh. <i>membran.</i>		48	48	
Congestion of the lungs.		6	4	2
Bronchitis acute.		3	2	1
do chronic.		4	2	2
Haemoptysis.		4	4	
		209		15
6) <u>Diseases of the digestive organs.</u>				
Cholera infantum.		38	36	2
Hæmorrhoids.		16		

Golic.	54	36	2
do bilious.	28	28	
Intussusception. (invagination)	8	8	
Hepatitis acuto.	2	1	1
do chronic.	15	14	1
Worms.	6	5	1
Glossitis.	56	56	
Tonsillitis.	1	1	
Carcum Oris.	4	4	
Prolapsus ani.	2	1	1
Dyspepsid.	2	2	
Cholera morbus.	9		
Constipation.	35	35	
Dentition.	48	48	
Cholera Asiatic.	87	87	
Diarrhoea acuto.	10	5	3-
do chronic	38	35	3
Dysentery Epidemic.	13	9	4
do Sporadic.	240	239	11
Gastritis	18	18	
	7	7	

Gastro-Enteritis.	over 683	8	6	29
Pyrosis.		3	3	
Haematemesis.		2	2	
Irritation of Stomach.		17	17	
		713		31
7) <u>Diseases of the brain & nervous system.</u>				
Infantile convulsions.		18	15	3
Inflammation of the brain.		8	3	5
Concussion " "		3	3	
Congestion " "		6	3	3
Spinal irritation.		9	9	
do meningitis.		1		1
Delirium tremens.		3	3	
Hysteria.		12		
Insanity.		3		
Neuralgia.		27		
		90		12
8) <u>Diseases of the visual organs.</u>				
Ophthalmia		36	36	
do Emorrhoidal.		1	1	

	over	27	27
Amaurosis.		3	3
Cataract.		3	
9) Diseases of the urinary organs		35	
Inflammation of the Kidneys.		4	4
do chronic.		3	3
Calculus.		5	
Gonorrhoea.		33	33
Stricture of the urethra.		3	3
Haematuria.		3	3
Irritable bladder.		17	
Impotence.		4	4
Varicocele.		6	
Phymosis.		1	1
Paraphymosis.		2	2
Strangury.		29	29
Syphilitis.		2	2
Retention of urine.		6	6
10) Rupture of the bladder.		178	
<u>Diseases of the Circulation</u>		179	7

Anemia.	5	3	2
Hypertrophy of the heart.	7		
Nervous palpitation of the heart.	31	31	
Effusion of blood into the pericardium.	1	1	
Pericarditis.	4	3	1
	48		3

11) Diseases Surgical.

Fracture Fore arm.	3	3	
do clavical.	2	2	
do Acromion process.	1	1	
do Ilium.	1	1	
do Tibia.	1	1	
do Fibula.	1	1	
do Humerus	1	1	
Burns & Scalds.	8	8	
Disease of the hip joint.	3	3	
Abscess " "	2	2	
Abscess other parts.	12	12	
Wittow	32	32	
Dislocation shoulder joint	1	1	

Extraction of knife blade from scapula.			
Contused wounds.	14	14	
Carbuncle.	6	5	1
12) Prussia.	12	1	1
<u>Constitutional diseases.</u>			
Rheumatism.	73		
13) <u>Poisoning</u> by,			
Spider bite.	1	1	
Corrosive sublimate.	3	3	
Parsnip wild. (Cow parsnip)	2	2	
	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	

It will be seen from the tables that in the past eleven years, I have attended something the rise, of two thousand four hundred patients; and lost in all, eighty three patients, or about 3 1/2 per cent. There is some difficulty as every practical man is aware of, in making out, & classifying diseases

particular^{ly}, if the tables are arranged after the form I have adopted— n^o of cases, n^o of recoveries, & deaths, — from the fact, that some diseases are constantly liable to recurring attacks, whilst others pass out of our hands without a termination in recovery or death. Another will account for the fact that in some diseases I have not run out the recoveries. In the year 1844 at which time I commenced the practice of medicine, there prevailed through the spring and early summer months, a variety of mild inflammatory attacks, which readily yielded to a moderately antiphlogistic treatment, — such^{as} bloodletting purgatives blisters &c. Through the latter part of summer and fall, periodical fevers prevailed to a considerable extent. This was the season here that typhoid fever

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first made its appearance in this section, and was recognised by myself in the month of August. Up to this period physicians in Mcminn County denied the existence of such a disease. I speak from the fact that I had long, and frequent, conversations with all of the leading medical men in the county upon this subject. This disease was occasionally, no doubt seen and known under the names of Slow, nervous, and winter fever; though they had not been very common. Typhoid fever prevailed to a considerable extent and was signally fatal in hands of nearly all this season; and still remains the same in the practice of some, especially, those who use active measures, — and remarkably so with those who continue to treat the disease upon the mercurial

plan. Typhoid fever increased in frequency and severity until the year '48 when it became more mild, & less fatal, up to the present, but still remains very common. As typhoid became more common, periodical fevers became less so, in proportion as the former increased in frequency, the latter have diminished until, periodical fevers are rarely seen. My uniform course of treatment in typhoid fever is mild, - suffering the disease to run its course as other specific disorders, contenting myself, with guiding it through its different stages, meeting symptoms as they arise with the mildest possible means. I use no purgatives, and especially those of the drastic or mercurial kind, only laxatives or what is sometimes better, mild injections. Diarrhoea is an early and troublesome symptom in typhoid fever. This disease has a strong natural tendency to terminate in recovery,

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when left to nature's own resources. Rest in the recumbent posture, mucilaginous drinks, fomentations to the bowels &c, I order the hair cut short, cool or cold applications the head, if there be a tendency in the disease to attack the brain. Daily sponging of the body is not only grateful to the patient, but highly beneficial. I sometimes find it necessary to use Uloera to check diarrhoea and not infrequently add a small proportion of acetate of lead to each dose, which not only acts promptly in arresting the discharges from the bowels, but certainly has a good effect in healing intestinal ulcers occasionally I use the oil of turpentine with the happiest effect. One thing I never lose sight of, the slow and tedious nature of the disease, its great tendency to terminate in recovery if left undisturbed; consequently I am ever cautious in my

administrations to do no harm. I have said
 else where (Southern medical and surgical jour-
 nal June 2^o 1851 pp 330) "that typhoid fever is a
disease that cannot be cured, but can be safe-
ly conducted through its different stages by a
judicious course of treatment". I use the mil-
 dest liquid diet, and that in small qu-
 antities. Congestive fever was unknown in this
 section of country up to 1833, I met with
 three cases, one proved fatal, the other two
 recovered. The medicines principally
 relied on; were Sulphate Quinine opi stimul-
 ants cold water &c. Eruptive Fevers, with the
 exception of Scarlatina I have nothing of in-
 terest to record under this head. In the
 years 1844-45 I witnessed an ~~wide~~ epidemic of
Scarlet fever, mostly in its mild form, and tre-
 ated principally with domestic remedies. This
 country was entirely free from this scourge of
 the infantile world up to the present year-54

This season we have suffered from a severe Epidemic of Scarlatina in all its varied forms, and every variety of sequelae which usually attends the disease. It has shown its self from its mildest to its most malignant grade. The most of the malignant cases were attacked suddenly with: puking and purging, dark appearance of the tongue & throat, early prostration and death. The rash if it showed its self at all was of a dark livid color, all the symptoms were of a low typhoid grade. I saw no case in this or any other epidemic that were not early attended with sore throat. The treatment in its mildest form was simple, nothing was required only laxatives, light diet, bathing &c. But a severer grade called for a gentle emetic of ipecac, or what was better, saffor, and always at hand, - was the

Common salt water puke (Chloride of Sodium) and this might be repeated daily or several times a day if necessary, this I consider highly beneficial in removing pitth and phlegm, from the throat and fauces of the young patients, and its effects appears tonic than otherwise. The most common secondary affections, complications, or sequella of this epidemic were, - glandular swellings, pneumonia, pleuro-pneumonia, pleurisy, cerebral affections, nephritis, stranguary, retention of urine, otitis, gastritis, gastro-enteritis, enteritis, coryza, dropsy, cancerum Ovis, tinea capitis, &c

Diseases peculiar to females make up a great part of the medical history of this country; this from the fact, that parturient females are almost entirely in the hands of uneducated mid-wives, and also the variability of our climate. In thirty two cases of labour there were thirty vertex presentations one

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Shoulder and one breech. In the thirty vertex presentations, twenty nine were in the first position (according to Bandaloeque, Meigs and others) in which the vertex is directed to the left acetabulum, and the forehead to the right sacro-iliac symphysis; and one only in the second position, in which, ^{the} vertex was directed to the right acetabulum, and the forehead to the left sacro-iliac, Symphysis. I have witnessed two cases of placenta previa, one was a case of premature labor, and was lost from uterine haemorrhage, the other with great difficulty and profuse loss of blood was ^{saved} ~~lost~~. Puerperal diseases, and especially puerperal fever, ^{are} very common in this section. Notwithstanding its prevalence, it has never yet, appeared to me to present any of the features of an epidemic, nor has it appeared to be contagious or communicable in any way through the medium of the practitioner or otherwise; neither has it been that formidable

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monster spoken of by the older writers, but has
in a great majority of cases, yielded promptly to
remedial means, if timely afforded. Treatment
Blood-letting, purgatives, fomentations, blisters, colo-
mel, opium, &c venesection was only had recur-
se to in the full and plethoric, calomel and opi
was invariably used in all the cases that came
under my care with the happiest effects. One
case of polypus uteri came under my care, after
the patient had suffered from the disease for
more than five years, under the treatment of a
quack Thomsonian undetected; and notwithstan-
ding the patient, lost more or less blood daily,
the tumor had acquired a considerable
size, attached to the os uteri and hanging
almost externally it was still regarded as a
case of prolapsus uteri, a ligature was applied
the ^{tumor} came away on the fifth day, and the
patient recovered. It was a fibrous tumor
of the size of a goose's egg

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Prolapsus uteri, is a common and troublesome disease, and one that annoys the practitioner almost daily; and according to my experience is only partially controllable by the usual remedies. Warty growths of the labia, we have treated one remarkable case of this kind, I say remarkable, for the number & size of the morbid product; amounting to hundreds, and piled upon each other forming a cone. The patient was a ~~pregress~~ pregnant with her first child, eight months advanced of robust constitution, and full habit. treatment I attempted their removal by ligature, which give so much pain as to threaten abortion, I ~~then~~ attempted their removal by ligatures I then resorted to the use of the scissors, but the haemorrhage was so profuse I had to desist. One month after, she was safely and speedily delivered of a healthy child. I ordered cleanliness as much as possible until she

would be able to go about, and withstand the
ir removal, but by this time they had all
dropped off, showing conclusively in this case
that the gravid state was at least the
exciting cause of this loathsome disease—

Diseases of the respiratory organs, are greatly
on the increase in this locality, especially those
of phthisis pulmonalis. With the increase of typh-
oid fever and the prevailing typhoid type ^{xxx}
in all diseases, we have a proportional incre-
ase in this dread disease (Consumption) Not
hing is more common in this country, than
for consumption to follow close in the foot-
marks of typhoid fever. The great prevalence
of influenza, and the typhoid type in all
diseases, combines two circumstances which
tends greatly to increase Consumptions, viz;
the irritation of the respiratory apparatus,
and an asthenic condition of the whole
system;—the ^{former} acts as an exciting cause

whilst the latter perpetuates it. It is not
 necessary to remark on the treatment of consumption,
 as it will be sufficient to add that
 the patients invariably die, under all for-
 mer plans of treatment. And here I would
 remark, that the treatment as laid down
 in the books, is not only useless but dec-
idedly injurious. And I am convinced
 that if ever a change takes place for the be-
 tter, and more successful management of
 in this (now) incurable disease, it will
 be by a timely, invigorating course of treat-
 ment; not by drugs but by a proper cou-
 rse of exercise and means to fully inflate
 the lungs, and improve the dimensions and
 capacity of the chest. Diseases of the diges-
tive organs, cholera infantum is a common
 and troublesome disease, and one that
 enters largely into the list of our sum-
 mer complaints of infants and children

Treatment, is that laid down by the most prominent writers on diseases of children.

Eberle, Dewees, Condrie, Churchill, Meigs + others
 In the chronic form which is by far the most troublesome and fatal form of the disease I have found the Sulphate of Iron to act like a charm, after the usual remedies had failed, given in a weak solution, and used as a common drink. Functional diseases of the liver, - inaction and congestions, are very common, as will be seen by noting in the tables the amount, ^{of} bilious colic, constipation, Cholera morbus &c, though acute and chronic inflammations of the same organ are rare. Dysentery Epidemic dysentery has raged through this section of country the past two seasons, to a fearful extent, - it has been of a typhoid or congestive type. Here I would like to dwell on the history sympt and treatment of this epidemic, but space forbids (see Southern Medical and Surgical Journal Dec^r 1856)

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Treatment, the medicines which I almost entirely relied on, ~~was~~ (after the alimentary tube was entirely freed of all irritating matters or accumulations of hardened feces &c &c by some mild efficient purgative) were opi and its preparations, this drug was used extensively in the form of suppositories, and seldom any other way with children after every sanguinous discharge. Opium was used in full doses, both by the mouth and suppositories with adults. In some few cases the blue mop was given in connection with opiates with benefit. The warm bath and warm fomentations assisted greatly in the cure. Astringents generally did more harm than good. Asiatic cholera, our section of country was visited for the first time, the past summer with this fell destroyer of the humane race we visited ten well marked cases.

five died and five recovered, two of those that died were not seen in time to take medicine, Symptoms violent puking and purging ~~of~~ ~~the~~ of the characteristic rice colored discharges; ^{cramp} of the abdominal muscles and those of the extremities, profuse cold clammy sweats, cold extremities, a purple appearance of the whole surface, sinking and softning of the pulse, early prostration and death. Those of my patients that died lived from ten hours to two weeks;—one only, reacted after complete collapse, and died in two weeks from consecutive fever. The medicines principally relied on were, calomel, opium, camphor, various stimulants, frictions, sina-pims blisters &c. Diseases of the brain and nervous system, this class of diseases ~~are~~ ^{is} al-
 ite common and formidable. I do not know that any change has taken ^{place} in this class of ~~diseases~~ unless, congestions of the brain and

and nervous system are more prevalent than of former years, or rather under the typhoid type of diseases. Treatment of this class of diseases, is in the general difficult and uncertain. The various forms of inflammation of the brain in children, are serious diseases, and ~~are~~ ~~that~~ require prompt and timely attention. When treated promptly in their incipient stages by antiphlogistic measures they readily yield, free purging warm bath cold to the head, blisters, cupping, &c. Sometimes I commence the treatment by general blood letting in the larger children & almost invariably so with adults. I have also met with what Dr Watson and other observers denominate Spurious Hydrocephalus, in scrofulous or anemic children. This disease in some of its phenomena imitates the genuine or inflammatory disease, but certainly differs from it in this very important

particular, that there is a deficiency in the power of the heart and arteries, and an absence of inflammatory symptoms, and probably a want in the nutrient properties of the blood; the fontanelles are more or less sunken, cool & tremulous. In such cases, Antiphlogistic treatment, (which is so essential in the genuine disease) would in the latter prove speedily fatal; Stimulants, and a more nutritious diet in this case ^{are} the best directed means.

Diseases of the visual organs, with the exception of common ophthalmia, I have had little to do with this class of diseases—my usual treatment is with antiphlogistics emollient collyrium in general, unless it be in the chronic form of the disease; then astringents occasionally. Diseases of the circulation, I have treated but few diseases of the heart consequently can say but

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little from experience. One case of some interest came under my care of effusion of blood into the pericardium, according to my diagnosis, from injury of the left side of the chest, over the region of the heart. I saw the patient some twelve hours after the accident, found him sitting in a half recumbent posture, complaining of pain in the cardiac region, great dyspnoea, some fever, full pulse &c, upon examining the heart with a stethoscope, the natural sounds of the organ, were much more audible than in health, and conveyed an additional sound as if the organ were acting in a fluid, treatment as the patient was of full habit, venesection was had recourse to, purgatives &omentations to the side &c low diet, & venesections repeated if necessary to allay urgent symptoms, he recovered in due time

Diseases of the urinary organs, I have witnessed some severe passages of urinary calculi and have in my possession some fine specimens, both of the lithic acid, and phosphatic acid varieties of gravel, (calenti) treatment, blood letting, purgatives, hip bath spiritum in large doses, I have treated some cases of inappetence of interest, from Onanism and other causes, also some deplorable cases of marasmus producing other and various pathological conditions of the system: such as nephralgia, and various other forms of neuralgia, a general sense of malaise emaciation &c (see Southern medical and surgical journal April no 1832 page 208)

Surgical diseases, surgery in the country is seldom met with to any great extent, unless it be fractures, and dislocations. We extracted a knife blade from the scapula, which had been firmly driven

into the neck of that bone by a stab (in
an assay) and broken off, leaving about
two inches of the blade remaining, one half
inch had penetrated the bone, the whole be-
ing hid entire in the muscles. Constitutional
diseases, rheumatism when confined to the
joints is a troublesome and painful
disease and when it attacks some vital
organ (by metastasis or otherwise) as the
heart or brain is a dangerous, and in many
cases a fatal disease. treatment, the medicines
principally relied on, are depletion, according
to the habits of the patient, opium fermentat-
ions &c. Poisoning, I have only treat-
ed six cases of poisoning, one of spider
bite, symptoms, nausea and vomiting, & cru-
ciating pains throughout the whole body
and especially the lower extremities, se-
vere spasms of the voluntary muscles &c
treatment, stimulants camphor opi brandy &c

the patient recovered; this was probably due
 to the excessive stimulation he underwent
 Two cases of poisoning by corrosive sublimate
 in the same person, by its external use in
 a cosmetic preparation, - ⁱⁿ the third case, this
 drug was used for Acetate of lead in solution
 as a vaginal injection for leucorrhoea,
 through mistake by ~~an~~ old practitioner
 fortunately for the patient, this article is
 very sparingly ~~dissolved~~ ^{soluble} in water & a
 large proportion was precipitated, treatment
 albumen of egg injections. Two cases of poi-
 soning by wild parsnip root (Cow parsnip) in
 a negro woman and child, symptoms resembled
 those by opium and its preparations, treat-
ment, after freeing the stomach by an ac-
 tive emetic, large quantities of strong coffee
 was used in connection with acetic acid
 the patients both recovered though slo-
 wly and gradually but completely