

AN  
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION  
ON

*Intermittent Fever*

SUBMITTED TO THE

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OF THE

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# Intermittent Fever.

There is one peculiarity in this disease that I might here mention and this is its tendency to occur at hebdominal periods viz the seventh, fourteenth, and twenty-first days, and another peculiarity is that not unfrequently infants and children with Intermitents are thrown into convulsions during the inflammatory reaction; and here, a young M. D. will be tempted to use the lancet - but let me say to you that this is a provision that nature makes against epilepsy - and under the influence of this convulsive action you may expect benefit, for it congests the blood-vessels of the head and prevents a proplexy. Therefore your treatment should be mild. Young girls, who are affected



with epilepsy should not be cured  
of this disease, for probably the inter-  
mittent may cure the epilepsy,  
this is Medicatrix's nature and  
pathology. The man who understands  
best the pathology of simple fever  
is wholly unprepared to treat dan-  
gerous and difficult intermittents.  
There is an opinion among physicians  
that there is no such a thing as continued  
fever; but not so though the great  
bulk of your business will be the  
treatment of periodical disease,  
and in this disease you cannot  
have information given you from  
pathology or anatomy, because  
it never kills any one; you may  
see an enlarged spleen, liver,  
stomach, and intestines in inter-  
mittent fever, for this is the effect



of the disease and not the primary affection. And again you may see all the organs simultaneously affected, therefore we could not conclude that all those organs take disease at the same time, but is attributed to the nervous system, as it affects one or all of the organs, during the effect the patient may have the stitch or pain of the pleura this tissue being affected without it being primary, and when caused from intermittant fever, you may apply your blisters, but it will be of no avail; but if your blister be applied to the spine, it being tender, it will act like a charm, and even the false pains of labour have their seat in the spine and by applying blisters to the spine



you relieve them and when  
true they will continue in this  
disease, pain is produced in  
far off parts when the disease  
is in a different location, when  
the disease is in the nervous system,  
according to this proposition we  
find that in puerperal peritonitis  
the spine is partly the seat of  
the affection; and its cure is  
greatly facilitated by the applica-  
tion of blisters, cups, and leeches  
to the spine, and scarification;  
and in the most fearful diseases  
you will in time meet with cases  
that some of the spinous processes  
of the lumbar vertebrae and upper  
part of the sacrum tender upon  
touch: The same may be said  
of common peritonitis but in



This form you will find The  
Tenderness higher up than in  
purulent Peritonitis; also you  
must more or less find the spine  
affected in acute rheumatism  
whose cure may be augmented by  
the application of a blister to  
the spine or from the source  
whence it came; in cramp-  
colic &c where there is contraction  
of the vermicular muscles of  
the stomach you will find  
more or less tenderness of the spine  
between the shoulders, and  
in severe colic by the applica-  
tion of blisters to the cervical  
and dorsal vertebrae the vio-  
lent costiveness will give way  
to a laxative state of the bow-  
els, whenever the most drastic



cathartics are ineffectual.  
In palpitation of the heart  
this irritation sometime exists  
in the spine, and may be  
removed by a blister. In every  
case of intermittant fever you  
will find irritation of the spi-  
nal column, and in making  
pressure let it be equal on all  
the processes; you need not  
take a hammer and a spoon to  
find out the truth; and  
here the application of a sin-  
gism will produce a wholly  
modifying effect, alleviating  
the pain in the back, eyes,  
joints, and head: The same  
is true of febril spasm. They  
are evidently the effects of a  
disease that lingers in the spinal marrow.



In gastritis the spine is irritated, there may be some objection in the position that it is caused from the morbid action of the liver but this is not the cause, from the fact that the malaria has entered through the lungs. This Marsh Malaria is a specific like Ipecac, which vomits whenever it is applied to the system. Another fact, in those malarial districts, you see a great tendency to neuralgia and you must observe that it may occur without fever, and hence it may be nothing but intermittent attacks, this affection will be relieved by cups and blisters to the spine; and whenever intermittents will yield to antiperiodics, they will yield to cups and leeches to the spine.



During the cold stage the blood is thrown into the heart, and all the functions are deranged, consequently the heart is excited by the stimulus of the blood and is thrown into violent action. The sweating is an effort of nature to purify the system of the accumulation of the poisonous secretions that were held in the system, restoring the suspension of the functions in the cold stage of the disease.

#### Treatment of Intermittent Fever.

In the cold stage my remedy is an emetic of warm water, and it is the best remedy that could be, after all that has been said about the treatment. This is one of the most delightful articles for washing the impurities from the stomach, in old persons.



in the malignant form of this disease where an emetic is contra-indicated, opium and laudanum and also blood-letting in the cold stage is sometimes very valuable, and it is important for us to know that this is a good remedy in some of the malignant forms of this disease. In the hot stage blood-letting is forbidden except in local inflammation however severe the head may ache, opiates are valuable but we abstain from using them, cathartics we utterly object to for it is a rational conclusion that the hot stage will come on and all the secretions are locked up and the medicines will not act until after the paroxysm, and if you should see any



necessity for a cathartic, use a  
a clyster in its stead.

But in the hot stage use cold  
water for nature calls, and it  
is so natural always bear in  
mind that this stage is not of  
a fatal termination, and as  
soon as the stomach is distended  
with water the patient will vomit  
washing the stomach of its impurities  
being absorbed into the portal cir-  
culation going through the liver;  
and so soon as the patient vomits  
there will be a relief of the distended  
organs producing topical revulsions  
to the spine; a long sinapism  
between the shoulders is an auxiliary,  
but cold and hot water is the best  
remedy. Topical revulsions only  
should be used before the expected



paroxysm and aromatic drinks,  
and in nine cases out of ten  
cupping the patient and vouch-  
sines to the spine will stop  
it: Sulphate of Quinine given  
during the intermission will  
stop the approach of the next  
paroxysm. We are not partial  
to large doses, if a simple inter-  
mittant. let your dose be  
given in proportion to  
the attack.

Rx To prevent the return  
of simple Intermittant  
fever, Take,

Camphor 2 gr

Capsicum 2 "

Opium 2 "

Mix and make into three  
pills one to be taken every



hour for three hours before  
the expected paroxysm, when  
there is a tendency to return  
the seventh, fourteenth, and  
twenty-first days

Rx White oxide of arsenic ʒʒ  
Cassia ʒʒ

To be made into thirty two pills,  
one to be given every three  
or four hours for three  
weeks during the day this  
is said to prevent the peri-  
odical return.

