

AN  
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

*Rubeola*

SUBMITTED TO THE

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## Rubeola

This is an idiopathic fever which propagates itself by contagion and is characterized by an eruption upon the skin.

The first account we have of it is that given by Rhazes in the ninth century.

Measles was for a long time considered as a variety of variola.

Symptoms Course and duration.

There is generally at the commencement of this disease rigors sometimes amounting to a distinct chill, there is apt to be some pain in the back and limbs; if the pulse be examined it is found to be



more frequent than usual;  
The skin is dry and hot; The  
Tongue furred and also a loss  
of appetite with a very disagreeable  
taste and great Thirst.

Superadded to these is irritation  
about the eyes, nares and  
fauces; The eyes are red and  
watery; The irritation of the  
nares causing the patient to  
sneeze. The fauces are likewise  
much irritated and the voice  
is changed being rough and  
husky; there is also a loud  
hoarse cough, with sometimes  
more or less tightness of the  
chest and dyspnoea. Epistaxis  
is spoken of as occurring  
sometimes in the early stage.



And also pain about the epigastrium with nausea and vomiting. Constipation is the most common condition of the bowels, but they are sometimes too active amounting frequently to diarrhoea.

Convulsions are said to occur in cases of children that are teething. There is a great difference in the degree of violence in this early stage; sometimes presenting nothing more than symptoms of moderate Catarrh with very little fever.

In other cases the fever is very high and symptoms



of sever bronchial and pulmonary inflammation present themselves.

The symptoms usually attending this disease increase in severity for one or two days then subside until the appearance of the rash at which time the fever returns with increased violence.

The rash appears on the fourth day in small red spots which are slightly elevated and feel rough to the finger. They make their first appearance about the face and neck from these points



The rash spreads over the entire body and extremities. According to Wood there is an interval of one or two days in some cases between the appearance of the rash about the face and its completion in the extremities. The color of the rash is that of brick-dust it disappears under pressure but returns when the pressure is removed. There is no uniformity in the size of the pimple no two being found of the same size. There is sometimes a troublesome itching attending the eruptive stage of this disease.



which if present is generally about the time the disease has reached its maximum of intensity. Dr Gregorz says that in regular measles the Catarrhal symptoms begin to decline as soon as the rash appears. he states that he has seen the Cough cease instantly as if by magic. Dr Wood thinks that the Cough becomes loose but does not cease until the disease has run its course which it does in seven or eight days at which time the rash, Catarrhal and febrile symptoms all pass off together.



The rash disappears in the same order it made its appearance disappearing first from those parts where it first appeared.

As the red color fades out it is supplanted by a dirty yellowish hue. Desquamation sometimes takes place, when it does so in any or all parts the cuticle separates in fine furfuraceous scales and it is generally attended with some itching of the skin. Measles are sometimes complicated the most frequent and fatal of which is pneumonia. Other organs are sometimes involved, Enteritis with diarrhoea is spoken of as



A consequence. Ophthalmia is said to be common and sometimes severe; also as a consequence of inflammation of the air passages the voice is frequently changed being hoarse and sometimes entirely destroyed.

Measles also favor the development of tuberculous matter in those predisposed; also giving rise to scrofulous swellings.

Cause- This disease is dependent upon a specific poison which being generated in the bodies of those laboring under the disease, acts upon others through the atmosphere and is therefore decidedly contagious.



Measles most commonly appear epidemically; in which form it is said to be most common in cold weather, though confined to no season but may prevail at any time. It is more frequent among children but is not confined to this class alone none being exempt from one attack which secures them against the disease subsequently.

The stage of incubation in this disease is from ten to twelve days.

Diagnosis. In the early stages the catarrhal symptoms which are always present



are the most characteristic. Writers attach much importance to the cough which is loud hoarse and dry with little or no expectoration. There is however some uncertainty until the appearance of the rash.

The diseases with which measles is apt to be confounded after the eruption appears are Variola and Scarlatina. From Variola we distinguish it by the subsidence of the fever in the latter when the eruption appears, also in the latter there is a change from the pimple to the umbilicated vesicle



Then the pustule forming  
lastly the scab.

The rash in this disease  
arranges itself in a circular  
form being also more elevated  
than the rash in measles.

The most characteristic  
points of difference between  
measles and scarlatina are  
the catarrhal symptoms,  
which are always present  
in the former but  
absent in the latter.

There is also a difference  
in the time of the  
appearance of the rash being  
the fourth day in measles  
and the second in scarlatina.

The uniformity in the size



of the rash of the latter disease is not found in measles no two ~~two~~ being of the same size; the scarlet rash is also of a brighter color than that of measles.

Prognosis- This is generally favorable unless the disease is complicated.

Treatment In a simple case of measles all that is necessary is to render the patient comfortable by giving him lemonade, orangeade and other cooling drinks to allay thirst. If the bowels are constipated some mild purgative should be given; but if diarrhoea is present it is to be



Counteracted by appropriate remedies. If inflammation exists it is to be subdued by antiphlogistic means—very cautiously applied.

Other symptoms of derangement in the functions of other organs are to be treated according to their nature and violence.