

2007
C.K.M.



AN

INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Rubeola or Measles

SUBMITTED TO THE

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE,

FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

BY

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OF

Tennessee



1854

CAMERON & FALL,

PUBLISHERS OF THE MEDICAL JOURNAL, BOOK AND JOB PRINTERS, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.

To
Prof W K Bowling

The learned Scholar The
Polite gentleman

And The
Accomplished Teacher

These Pages
are Respectfully Inscribed By
The Author

Rubeola

Formerly rubeola was written rubiola rubiolo it being derived from the spanish rubio it came to be changed to rubeola from the Latin word ruber to be red. There is another word meaning spotted the word morbilli or morbillo used in relation to the disease being a mild form of the small pox but when the small pox first made its appearance in England Measles was considered a mild form of the same disease

for the similarity between the two diseases is so great that they were compounded till the great Sydenham pointed out their distinctive characters and showed them to be altogether separate and independent diseases.

This is an exanthematous disease. The symptoms of the initiating stage are hoarseness sneezing and coughing lassitude a white tongue flowing of water from the eyes and nose chilliness followed by fever which is sometimes continued for several days before any rash makes its appearance which generally takes place about seventy two hours from the time the first symptoms are perceptible the eruption at first resembles flea bites being small distinct red spots.

We first discover them on the

face and neck then on the chest and upper extremities and last of all on the lower extremities it being sometimes one or two days before it is entirely out. It generally makes its appearance in clusters of irregular shape leaving spaces between apparently unappetted. The skin upon the whole presenting a rough appearance considerably elevated the rash appears in the form of papules and as they increase upon the surface they run in to each other and congregate in to patches of a concentric shape. Generally about the fourth day it begins to fade out beginning on the face and going downwards in the same order that it made its appearance. It becomes of a browner and more

darky hue as it disappears
and leaves a dry branny scurf
upon the skin it has occupied.

This disease is contagious and is
more prevalent among children
than adults but is generally
more severe and attended with
more danger with the latter.

There are but few persons
who will not take this disease
and like most other contagious
diseases it seldom attacks a
person more than once. There
are a few cases on record of
its having attacked the same
person twice. Dr Bailey gives
an account of eight cases as
having come under his obser-
vation in which the same
patients had this disease twice.
On the decline of this disease
the patient has generally a
severe cough accompanied by

expectoration after a short time it becomes less copious and is accompanied by an aggravated hacking cough which sometimes terminates in pneumonia or bronchitis for the system is left in a condition after an attack of this disease in which the patient is liable to be attacked by various inflammatory diseases not infrequently diarrhoea sets in on the decline or during the continuance of this disease. In some cases it seems to carry off the deys of this disease at least for a short time and is easily managed; in others it proves very obstinate and may become chronic and destroy the life of the patient.

The effects of this disease are not confined to any one particular part of the system but

seem to endanger the organs more than almost any disease with which we are acquainted. The organs most liable to be affected by this disease are the lungs resulting in pneumonia at times of a very dangerous character or the bronchial tubes producing bronchitis; or the stomach and bowels bringing about a serious derangement of these organs. The condition or the derangement of the stomach and bowels however in many cases is aggravated by using cathartic medicines too freely some writers recommend tartaremetic which in my opinion can be used to advantage in but very few cases for the reason that it has a tendency to inflame the stomach when given in cases in

which the stomach is comparatively healthy.

In some cases of this disease the eruption is caused to disappear or strike in very suddenly by exposure in the air or dampness in which case the patient is often placed in a very dangerous situation and it is highly necessary for his safety that they should be again thrown to the surface as speedily as possible. In case of a disappearance of the eruption it is followed by severe pains in the bowels coma or convulsions with indications of inflammation of some internal organ or organs in which case the remedies should be of such a character as would have a tendency to reproduce the rash and delay or prevent inflammation.

This disease very often attacks the eyes and always has a tendency to weaken them. But sometimes severe inflammation follows and owing to the very delicate structure of that organ disorganization and loss of vision are not un frequently the result. Occasionally the fever attending measles is of a low typhoid type rendering the disease peculiarly malignant and unmanageable after baffling the most skillful treatment. The symptoms that characterize this form of measles are a livid color of the skin very distressing vomiting great pain in the stomach accompanied by difficult breathing and convulsions. There may be a predisposition to some of these conditions. Dentition and pulmonary disease sometimes aid in causing convul

face and hands with cold water and vinegar will be benificial. If the brain or lungs be much threatened with inflammation it may be necessary to resort to blood letting generally or locally. In fact the antiphlogistic treatment modified to suit the peculiarity of the case should be unhesitatingly employed.

Notwithstanding this disease has been known for many centuries and is now looked upon by some persons as a disease of little importance and the treatment is sometimes left to old women and quacks when this is the case it not unfrequently happens that the worst of consequences follow and the patient is left in a condition

from which it is very difficult to relieve him he it may be has taken cold or the disease has settled on some vital organ no farther use is found for the quack with his hot tea-^{and} number six; but the physician is called in to take charge of the case whatever it may be perhaps the patient may be suffering of bronchitis or pneumonia and the result is that he often fails with all his skill and energy to relieve the patient of the disease which has been brought upon him by carelessness on the part of him self or friends all of which might have been avoided by taking the right step in the commencement. When persons look upon measles as a disease of little importance

They seem to have got the maxim that (large oaks from little acorns grow) for although it may in most cases be treated with little difficulty if in fact it requires any at all but it is too plain a case to be denied that when neglected or mistreated it very often results in the worst of consequences and it may not always in my opinion be chargeable to the mismanagement of the patient or the treatment of those who do not understand the disease. Physicians themselves unless they exercise a considerable degree of caution and scrutinize the disease close and apply the proper remedies at the proper time will often find very difficult cases when they had imagined

They were treating a disease
of but little importance.

It is of the utmost importance
in measles as in most of this
class of diseases to prevent its
assuming some other form or
changing to some other disease
which is often more fatal than
the original especially if the
Physician does not understand
the disease and be prepared to
meet the changes and apply
his remedies accordingly.