

AN  
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION  
ON

*Scarlatina*

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An inaugural dissertation  
on Scarlatina respectfully  
dedicated to W<sup>h</sup> K. Bowling M.D.  
as an humble mark of the  
high respect and admiration  
in which he is held  
by the Writer



1  
Scarlatina is a disease, which  
was long confounded with  
Measles but since the fif-  
teenth century it has been  
considered and treated as a  
separate disease

It is divided for consider-  
ation and discrimination,  
by most authors into three  
varieties, or forms, which  
they give the name  
of Simple, Anginose, and  
Malignant. but they are  
all one and the same  
disease, only assuming different  
forms and it is difficult  
and sometimes impossible to  
diagnositate one form from  
the other, in their first  
stage. It seems to be



owing to a great extent to the peculiarities of the system in regard to the specific poison also the condition of the system at the <sup>time</sup> of its incipency.

It is a disease which appears in all countries, no country within my knowledge is exempt.

It assumes all the forms from the most simple to the most malignant - consequently the divisions which are given to the disease. Like all contagious febrile diseases it seems in some instances to prevail epidemically, sometimes it proves destructive to



all its attacks, and at other times almost all recover. Its general characteristics are fever preceding the eruption for two days (though there is great difference in regard to this symptom) The fever is accompanied with headache pains in the back and swelling of the throat also the scarlet eruption upon the skin

For the sake of distinction I will endeavor to treat of each variety separately Beginning with Scarlatina Simplex. This as its name implies is the most simple form of the disease



Therefore I deem it unnecessary to dwell particularly on its symptoms as they will be <sup>+</sup> included in the other varieties. and there being seldom any danger accruing from this form unless complicated in its termination and progress by some disease as a sequel.

Scarlatina Simplex is distinguished from the other varieties by the absence of swelling and inflammation of the Throat. But this symptom seems to be as peculiar to the disease as the eruption or efflorescence.

The first symptom that



is usually presented is a scarlet blush upon the face, neck or breast, which is accompanied with some fever sometimes, anorexia, thirst, slight febrile reactions, costiveness though in some cases there is a tendency to Diarrhoea, and upon the fifth day the fever begins to decline, sometimes sooner than this,

Again owing to some peculiarity of the constitution there will be high fever nausea, quick pulse, and a greater diffusion of the rash and in the evening probably there will be



some confusion of the mind  
sometimes amounting to  
delirium. but when there  
is delirium it might  
be considered one of the  
other forms. Though in  
some people there is such  
a predisposition existing  
in the system that they  
cannot have fever without  
delirium and in such  
cases the disease under  
consideration assumes a more  
malignant form in its  
termination, (rather in its  
progress). Thus I have  
given in a brief manner  
some of the most prominent  
phenomena of the simple  
form.



7

Scarlatina Anginosa This as  
its <sup>name</sup> implies receives its name  
from the consideration that  
the inflammation and  
swelling of the throat are  
the most prominent symp-  
toms. In this variety  
the patient some hours  
before the fever, (if he  
is large enough to express  
his feelings) complains  
of headache, sick stomach  
pain in his back & limbs  
the next symptom is  
high fever, continuing  
for two days before the  
eruption, along with  
these symptoms there is  
pain and swelling in the  
fauces, difficulty in opening



The mouth on account  
 of the peculiar <sup>stiffness</sup> in the jaws  
 as the disease advances  
 the fever increases in height  
 the pulse is quicker, the  
 swelling of the throat  
 increases. At this period  
 the tongue if examined  
 will be found to be  
 coated over with a white  
 fur which soon becomes  
 of a dark blue and in the  
 course of three or four  
 days it will slip off.  
 Another symptom is  
 difficulty experienced in  
 swallowing sometimes it  
 is the case that the  
 patient cannot swallow  
 anything but liquids



and then probably they will return through the nostrils, frequently there is almost an unquenchable thirst, As the disease progresses the fever still becomes higher, the swelling of the throat increases and probably by this time there will be Delirium but not always.

If the throat is examined by placing a spatula upon the posterior superior surface of the tongue so as to give a clear view to the fauces. they will be found to be inflamed and there will be an exudation or



secretion of a bloody  
and sticky nature  
mixed with the glandular  
secretion of the mouth.

The Tonsils and uvula  
will be of an intense  
redness and the peculiar  
exudation somewhat  
resembling false membrane  
will be found extending  
into the pharynx  
sometimes when the mop  
is introduced for the  
purpose of cauterizing or  
washing out the throat  
this exudation will be  
found sticking to it  
which is elastic in its  
nature and resembles mucus  
mixed with blood



In some instances it is the case that in children who do not spit up this secretion, but suffer it to pass down into the Larynx it produces <sup>symptoms</sup> of pseudomembranous croup.

The eruption is generally <sup>longer</sup> in making its appearance than in the simple form but the eruption is more universal, generally the first that can be distinguished will be about the flexures of the joints or on the back, when you first discover the eruption it is simply a pimple, in a few hours ~~it~~ they will be diffused all over the



whole surface of the skin  
It will be very red and  
fiery when you press  
upon it at any part  
It will become very white  
and as soon as the pressure  
is removed it will suddenly  
become red again

There is also a peculiar  
feel imparted to the fingers  
by the skin it feels  
like goose flesh (*Cutis Anserinus*)

The external affection  
of the throat is sometimes  
great the glands are  
inflamed and very much  
swollen, And this generally  
continues for some time  
after the desquamation  
which is generally a little



longer than it is in the simple form. The lips are often cracked and painful. There is also a peculiar odor imparted to the breath of the patient. Sometimes it is the case that he will have to breathe entirely through his mouth on account of the nasal passages being closed up by the exudation and inflammation in them. The crusts which are formed thus closing them. If the inflammation continues long there is an offensive liquid discharged which sometimes excoriates the nasal orifice also a similar



fluid extending down from the fauces into the stomach causing inflammation of that organ or passing still farther down into the intestines causing diarrhoea as a sequela which carries off the patient. If not he is a long time in recovering. When the glands of the throat are greatly affected. The recovery is always protracted, sometimes he passes into a hectic state from which he never recovers. In this form or variety of the disease recovery is always more uncertain than in the simple form



being greater in its action  
 and longer in its  
 duration. But in the  
 majority of cases the pat-  
 ient recovers. This form  
 of scarlatina assumes its  
 height from the fifth  
 to the eighth day. The  
 fever subsides the cuticle  
 begins to desquamate all  
 over the whole body some-  
 times the cuticle slips  
 off the palms of the hands  
 so as to give the whole  
 shape also the soles of the feet.

### Scarlatina Maligna

In the consideration of this  
 variety it is unnecessary for  
 me to attempt the description  
 as it presents some of the most



malignant phenomena in so short a time. sometimes producing death without presenting any of the characteristic symptoms by which one could detect the disease more than the evidence of its prevailing as an epidemic. In a great number of instances this form begins as the simple variety but rapidly runs into the malignant form and the patient dies on the third or fourth day. There is always great muscular debility greater tendency in the throat to take on mortification. Delirium generally sets in very early in the progress of the disease. Exhausting diarrhoea



Comatose symptoms set in and the patient dies without the appearance of eruption sometimes the eruption does appear but it is of a dark bluish hue. Sometimes the patient will go through half of those symptoms and at last recover, but it is after a long struggle and repair of organic mischief.

Treatment. In very mild cases little is advisable to do but little, give cooling drinks, regulate the bowels and to keep the room of the proper temperature where the case is more severe in the commencement - give an emetic of Ipecac. followed by a



cathartic dose of Calomel  
 if it does not operate in  
 five hours give a dose  
 of Castor Oil, Magnesia or  
 one of the saline cathartics,  
 after this the bowels should  
 be kept open by such  
 cathartics as will suit  
 the case, when the skin  
 is hot and dry he should  
 be sponged with cold water  
 should have cold water to  
 drink freely, Ice to hold  
 in his mouth if he  
 prefers it. If the fever  
 is very high hot dry skin  
 quick pulse, in addition  
 to the cold water give  
 Spirits of Nitre Teaspoonful every  
 hour, The effervescent draught



is good. digitalis in doses  
of from five to eight drops  
every four hours is good  
though sometimes produces  
dangerous effects local  
remedies, the throat should  
be cauterized with Nitrate  
of Silver 15 grs to ounce of  
water. applied with a mop  
or pencil a gargle of  
vinegar, salt and red pepper  
is excellent where the  
inflammation of the throat  
is great apply Leeches, and  
large emollient poultices  
greasing the skin all over  
except the face two or  
three times per day is  
a valuable remedy. The  
physician should be on the



Lookout for signs of debility  
and be prepared to meet them  
if debility should set in  
it is thought best to stimulate  
give wine, brandy, Ammonia,  
Oil of Turpentine, animal  
broths, Sulphate of Quinine  
dissolved in Elixir Velivol  
brewers' yeast is highly  
recommended in the malign-  
ant form of the disease  
also in the other forms of  
the and is regarded by some  
as having specific powers.