

AND

INAUGURAL DISSERTATION,

ON

*Symptoms Syphilitic Pneumonia*



PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY



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FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

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If excuses could supply the  
place of a Thesis, or apologies  
meet the requirements  
of a Medical Student  
on becoming a Candidate  
for graduation, I could  
"come forward" with more  
confidence, and with much  
less embarrassment. Knowing  
however, that they cannot  
answer the purposes alluded  
to, I will proceed to offer  
something upon Typhoid  
Pneumonia; or rather upon  
the symptoms of that disease,  
as ~~was~~<sup>were</sup> presented to my obser-  
-ation in the winter of 1833-6-  
at which time the disease was  
almost entirely absent near

new to me. We have accounts given of the disease in the United States, as early as 1806 in Newfield a Town in the State of Massachusetts; whence it spread gradually, winter after winter, from one portion of the country to another, until in 1813 it reached Philadelphia, and in 1815 it prevailed in South Carolina. The same disease, probably, though under different names is spoken of by the older writers. This disease seems to have received names, according to the predominance of particular symptoms as is yet the case as for instance in violent



cases the patient being suddenly seized with a chill, accompanied with marked coldness of the surface. This is denominated cold Plague. Cases in which the head is affected with pain and <sup>other</sup> cerebral disturbances, before the Pneumonia symptoms are developed, has been called head Pleurisy. In autumn, in certain districts of country, as valleys of low lands containing fruitful sources of malarial poisons, the disease not unfrequently takes on symptoms peculiar to such countries, then receiving the name of Bilious Pleurisy. Notwithstanding these names seem to be very

appropriate in many cases—  
Taking into consideration the  
Symptoms of prostration that  
so frequently attends throughout  
the whole course of the disease;  
and the Rapidity with which  
the patient sinks, The Term  
Typhoid Pneumonia has been  
employed as more expressive  
of the true character of the  
disease, In its mode of attack,  
and the general Symptoms by  
which it is ordinarily attended.

There is not much uniformity.  
Usually however, it is ushered  
in by a distinct chill,  
of severity and long continuance,  
the heat of the whole Surface  
being much below the Standard

of health. It sometimes happens  
that the life of the patient is  
destroyed in this stage, action  
failing to be established. Nature  
seems to make powerful efforts  
for the relief of the sufferer in  
the establishment of action which  
she may partially do. But by a  
return or renewal of these alarming  
symptoms, attendants in such cases,  
as flaying of the pulse, coldness  
of certain parts, delirium subse-  
-tus, *Insomnum*, the patient expires  
suddenly during the cold stage.  
The respiration is short and rapping  
-id, pain in one or the other side  
of the chest is sometimes complained  
of. Though not always so; pain  
in the head, back and limbs,

of the most excruciating charac-  
-ter. The Muscular Strength is  
greatly prostrated, from the  
very onset - a sense of general  
uneasiness and great restlessness  
is exhibited - After a longer or  
shorter period Reaction ensues,  
if death does not. The heat  
of the Surface is restored,  
Though not often above the  
Standard of health, The heat  
is unequally diffused over  
the Surface, portions being  
decidedly hot, while others are  
comparatively cold. Sometimes  
the Skin is hot, dry and harsh,  
at other times, cool and clammy.  
The pulse when Reaction  
ensues becomes somewhat



fuller - a little quick, and frequent.  
Though in a majority of cases  
the pulse is not much increased  
in frequency, and in but  
very few cases does it acquire  
any degree of tension, but  
usually soft and yielding to the  
slightest pressure. During the  
fibrous stage of oppression of the  
chest, and difficulty of breathing  
is increased, and cough  
within the first twenty four  
hours not unfrequently comes  
on, which tends greatly to  
aggravate the Thoracic Symptoms,  
if the cough be dry and the  
expectoration scant. On the  
other hand, if the cough is  
attended with free expectoration,



The symptoms are to some extent relieved. The matter expectorated is generally of an ash or dark brown color - The Respiration besides being oppressed, is usually hurried and irregular - The patient often utters deep and heavy sighs, and a sense of weight or constriction about the Praecordia, with almost incessant attempts to relieve himself by changing his position; raising his shoulders suddenly with the object in view of getting ease. There is a peculiar redness suffused over the face, distinct from any of the

usual Redness of Fever, the face seems to be puffed except. Round the mouth and over the chin, which seems to be the reverse; unusually pale or white and constricted. The tongue in the first stage of the disease is not unfrequently clean, but red particularly about the edges, sometimes, it is thickly coated with a yellowish mucus, which in the progress of the disease changes to a brown or black. The tongue becoming at the same time, dry, hard, and rough, and very often chapped. This state of things will sometimes occur at the

very onset. Upon the separation  
of this crust, the tongue  
presents a bright red glitter-  
ing color. This often pervades  
the fauces. In many cases  
delirium is present from  
the onset; where there is great  
pain in the head. A little  
on, in the progress of the disease,  
the teeth and the whole interior  
of the mouth, becomes  
coated with a dark colored  
sordes. The breathing becomes  
shorter, and more oppressed,  
the strength more prostrated,  
the pulse smaller and weaker,  
the sudorous twisting  
increased, the patient sinks  
into a low muttering

delirium ~~and~~ the fatal event  
pretty soon takes place.

The duration of this disease  
is very variable. we have ac-  
counts of it having proved  
fatal in three hours. it <sup>is</sup> not  
improbable, though I have  
never seen this happen.

So far as I have observed the  
course and duration of this  
I think about eight days  
would be near the average  
duration, though sometimes  
protracted considerably  
over that time but when  
an early and an appropriate  
treatment is instituted,  
the disease may generally  
be controlled in a few days.



But often when every thing  
seems to promise a favourable  
recovery, the patient is suddenly  
seized by some new symptoms,  
or symptoms not anticipated,  
and for which we are not  
able to account, as pain in  
the region of the Liver,  
head, bowels, or any part,  
none being exempt. I have seen  
persons suddenly cry out  
with pain in the hand, shoulder  
or the eye, giving evidence  
of the most intense suffering.  
The pain frequently described  
by the patient as resembling  
toothache but they will say  
it a thousand times worse.  
The bowels in some cases are

not much interrupted, In others  
diarrhoea; and controlled with  
some difficulty in many cases.

Other symptoms frequently  
come up in the course of the  
disease, the following are some  
of them. Stiffness of one side  
of the neck, Swelling of the  
Tonsils with great difficulty  
in Swallowing - Various other  
Glands are rasonably involved.  
Sometimes Symptoms of genuine  
erysipelas presents in the course  
of the disease