

AN

INAUGURAL DISSERTATION,

ON

Typhoid Fever,

SUBMITTED TO THE

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, AND MEDICAL FACULTY

OF THE

University of Nashville,

FOR THE DEGREE OF

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE.

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OF

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County

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Typhoid ^{or} Fever

Is one of the most destructive
maladies which man
is subject to, and one of which
there is great diversity of opin-
ion since it is not man's
happy privilege to enjoy
uninterrupted health it behoves
the Physician to give it more
than a passing notice.
How often is the medical man
called to treat this disease and
how much has he been
puzzled when he has seen
it rival his utmost skill
and yield to none of the
remedies ^{which he} is in possession
of, but continue its rage like

old ocean ~~the~~ when agitated by
the boisterous wind, but fortunat-
ely for its unhappy victims the
medical science has learned how
to meet an at what point to
attack this destroyer of the human
race. It is a disease that is
becoming more and more
common through out our land
and country seizing those
of both sex an every age.
The time at which it prevails
to the greatest extent is
between the months of September
and April however it is met
with at various periods, an
as it becomes ^{more} prevalent throu-
gh out our land and country

the scientific Physician ever on
the alert armed and equipped
ready to meet it at its coming,
but not going forth as men
did in a more antique day
with a lance in one hand
and a bottle of alcohol in the
other to subdue inflammation
and restore vitality. The lance
is of the greatest paramount
importance when used prop-
-erly, but we be unto him
that uses it in typhoid
fever, we should ever be
guarded in our treatment
of this disease, not this alone
but every other, and should
ever be awake to the great

responsibilities which rest upon us, for the lives of nations so to speak is in the hands of the Physician.

The profession has its troubles and difficulties yet often does it bring comfort to the soul when he looks down the long vista of time sees he knows and feels that he has relieved the sufferings of his fellow man, stimulated by such feelings let us never be idle, but prompt and ready to discharge our duty. Furthermore willing to spend our lives in study

for knowing all we can we
know but little at best.

man may study until he
grows old gray and dimmed
then sink beneath the tufted
rod and feel as if he had
just began to learn.

man's progress should ever
be onwards or upwards until
he has placed his foot upon
the topmost round of the
ladder of science, ever
remembering his many duties,
and that suffering millions
are looking to him for relief.
The study of medicine
should not be regarded as
a mere matter of speculation

curiosity, it involves matters
of greater importance.
while the Physician is winning
laurels for himself he restores
comfort and happiness to many.
his opinions should be
well founded remembering
the office he holds.

Typhoid fever is one of those
forms of continued. what shall
we say respecting the
predisposing cause. it is
the opinion of some that
it is produced by miasma.
what constitutes this poison.
it is contended by many
that it is produced from
animal and vegetable decomposition.

alone. heat and moisture are two
essential products to carry on this
process. ~~It is~~ ~~is~~ is an established
fact, but do we not see the
form of disease exerting its
greatest influence when we
have neither animal nor
vegetable decomposition.

it has been proven times
and again that malarial may
exist where there is no
vegetable matter. if we
will just follow Dr Feeguson
in his many researches through
Spain and Holland all the
desert when no vegetable
matter either exist or can
exist an witness the destructive

influence of meason. it will
be sufficient proof against
it originating from vegetable

decomposition alone. from
many instances it is quite per-
ceptible that it is generated
from a moist earth aided
by heat of the sun. again
it seems to be produced
from ill ventilated and
pent up cellars.

with regard to its locality
many theorists are of the
opinion that it exist near
the ground. an is not
capable of crossing water,
unless it be carried over
by a storm, and

That it exerts a more deli-
-cious influence on the an-
-imal economy at night than
in day. why it is more
noxious at night than in
day is accounted for on
this principle. that the
malaria poison is evolved
in day and more concentrated
at night. and that man is
compelled in one position for
a greater length of time at night
than in day. at night he
reposes to his couch and while
asleep breathes the poison which
poison coming in contact
with the mucous membrane
of the air passages is absorbed

and carried in to the sce-
-culation, hence disease is set
up, but may we not have
this disease when we have no
reason to suspect that it is either
produced from animal or vegetable
decomposition, neither ^{from} the moist
earth aided by heat of the sun.
my opinion is that we may
but since it is a fact that
we have to treat and not
cause, we will cease all
theories and endeavour to
point out the characteristic
signs by which we may be
able to recognize this disease
at any or all ~~of~~ times.
first the patient may be

seen moping about for several days, and when excited will express himself as feeling dull and stupid, oftener than other wise as being lazy. which stage is lassitude. secondly muscular debility. third cold rigour. the patient may pass several days without being sensible of cold. there is also a slight headache or rather a sense of weight and fullness. appearance of the tongue. it is possible that this disease may run its entire course without any change in this organ, but most generally it is coated with a white fur which

in a short time becomes
brown with a black streak
in the center, edges and
tip read also thickened and
longer with transverse
and longitudinal cracks,
around the teeth dark
coloured soeds are deposited.

This coat may peel off
of the tongue, which is
not a favourable prognostication.

The tongue will then present
a slick and shining appearance.
This coat often returns and
is seen upon the tongue
when the patient is convalescent,
which will be difficult
to remove with the sharpest

instrument. tongue usually
dry. less thirst in this than
any other fever. small red
spots on the abdomen and
chest. a little elevated.
some ten or twelve in
number, which appear about
the seventh or eighth day.
small pustules about the
neck and throat containing
serum. typhnetis. diarrhoea.
epistaxis. intolerance of light
are pathognomonic of this
disease. hemorrhage from the
bowels. this is a very unpa-
-rable symptom. the blood
that is voided is generally
pure. the patient on

going to stool may have hemorrhage.
next discharge entirely free of blood.

delirium, subsultus tendinum are
characteristic of this disease. urine
voided in great quantities but at
longer intervals than most fevers.
always free from deposit.

the patient when in a perfect
comatose state can be aroused
so as to answer intelligibly
any question. pulse ranges
from seventy five to one hundred
and forty. occasionally does not
exceed fifty. if pulse at first
be fast and weak the patient
is apt to remain sick for a
long time. heat of body seldom
very great. always more or

less cough. loss of appetite.
anatomical lesions. Peyer's glands always
involved which glands are situated
in last third of ileum. ulceration
of bowels. which frequently result
in prostration. mesenteric glands
often ^{found} in a state of inflamma-
tion. in some instances the
meninges of the brain has
been found to contain a
small effusion of blood

Treatment

we would not advise vene-
section under any circumstan-
ces. nor active cathartics
small doses of hydrogysium
cum casta. oil and turpentine
opium. astringent enema to assist

diarrhea. ~~starch~~ starch and
laudanum. tannin. leeches to the
abdomen. warm fomentations
blisters. niter muciatie pediluvium
bath. blister to the nape of
the neck, if there be much
depression or wild expression
of countenance. neutral
mixture if great febrile
action. cold applications to
the head may be useful.
spts dulc niter. nitrate of silver
if there be any ulceration of
bowels. gum camphor and opium
soothe bowels by mild enemata
because of diffusible stimulant
and active purgatives

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