

AN
INAUGURAL DISSERTATION

ON

Cholera Infantum

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

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Cholera Infantum
(or. Summer. complaint of Infants)

Gentlemen.

In selecting a subject to base my Thesis upon in compliance with the rules, and regulations of your Institution, I select the one above, not because I feel myself competent to cast any new light upon the Pathology Symptoms or Treatment of the disease.

This disease however is peculiar to the United States, and one too, the young Practitioner of Medicine will find most troublesome to contend with, a disease too that hurries more of our Infants to the grave than any one known in our

land, Then is there any one subject
that ^{should} command the attention of
the young Practitioner, before this
one, certainly not. To relieve the gasp-
ing Infant at its mothers breast is
a soul cheering pleasure that, remain
as Indelibly stamped, upon the hearts
of the mother and father, as letters
of gold engraved in marble rock.

Nothing is more cheering to the
young Physician, than to approach
the dying Infant in its mothers
arms, and feel that he can give
it ease. The friends, and relatives, are
called in to see, the dying Infant,
draw its last breath, the Doctor,
comes, whilst death is whetting
his bloody fangs, he ^{the Doctor} steps in and
says thus far, thou, hast gone, but

but no farther shalt, thou goe.

The causes that give rise to this disease, are so numerous, that I shall not enter into a minute detail of them, moreover the limited space, and the Jury like boundaries, I have to observe forbid my doing so. If my inclination were such, but I will leave you to know I am as willing to be restricted as you are to restrict me, I will enumerate the most frequent, causes, that tend to produce this disease, and then pass to the symptoms Diagnosis, and ^{the} Treatment,

The causes are heat of Summer, Ill-ventilated rooms. Impure air, Dentition, Improper diet, Age, Sex, clothing &c.

Symptoms.

The first, and most usual
Symptoms that indicate the approach
of the disease, is great fulness,
slight nausea, pallor of the patient,
shortly after follows vomiting,
diarrhoea, gastric irritability,
the stools being often of a greenish,
or bilious appearance, then yellow
sometimes watery, at other times
light colored, and thin, there is
most always present, febrile
movement, the period, at which
this occurs and its degree depend^{as}
on the severity of the attack,
Occasionally the disease is exceed-
ingly violent, in fatal cases of
short duration the vomiting us-
ually continues to the end,

The vomiting, and purging are almost incessant, the stomach rejects every thing swallowed,

If the disease is not checked, prostration comes on with a cool, and ^{clammy} skin, pail and shrunken features, and death ends the scene,

Frequently the attack is attended with febrile symptoms and the case prolonged to two or three weeks, The few cases coming under my observation since my advance to the profession of Medicine, seem to have more or less fever and a duration of two to four weeks, but, always of a milder nature, The pulse is frequently small and weak,

(weak) or corded, the mouth hot, the Tongue fured, the apete deficient, the thirst intence, the (the) abdomen is not verry tumid or tender to the touch at first, but after some weeks allaps, it frequently becomes tympanitic, ~~and~~ tender, drawing up of the lower extremitiees, turning of the trunk, and crying of the child, are verry marked symptoms of the disease, the countinā^{ce} becomes anxious and distresed, and is flush during the exacerbaton and pail in the remission the eyes are sunken, the skin hangs in folds above the face the lips are thin and dry, the nervous sytem is disturbed, the respirations vary according

to the degree of the reaction, it rises to 40 or 50 in a minute.

At times there are spasmodic contractions of the abdomen. The head and abdomen ^{are} hot, whilst the extremities are cold, or natural. In temperature frequently cold, and clammy, Toward evening there is fever, restlessness and pain, occasionally delirium occurs, manifested by violent tossing of the head, ^{attempts} to bite, the eyes become wild and injected, the nose sharp and pointed, In the advanced stage, the abdomen is tumid, or ~~rather~~ sunken. The mouth is moist and ophthalmous, or brownish red, and dry, patches occasionally appear upon the surface of the body, and

and a small vascular eruption on
the breast, the skin sometimes assum^{es}
a dull dirty hue, and the conjunctiva
appears bloodshot, the emaciation
is extreme at times, at length coma
sets in and the scene is closed not
unfrequently with convulsions.

Diagnosis

It is not a difficult matter
to make out a Diagnosis of this disea^{se}
The season of the year, the age of the
patient, the probability of dentitions
the frequently vomiting and purging
the evacuations, diarrhoea, gastric
irritability, are all signs pointing
to the disease. It prevails to the great
-est extent during the warmest
weather of summer, about July
and August,

Impure air being one of the most frequent causes, then good sense, and sound reasoning would teach every practitioner of Medicine, that a change in residence from the crowded rooms of cities, into pure air, would constitute the first measure to arrest the disease. This often gives so much ease to the little sufferer, that the whole family are made to rejoice in their new home, and the happy effects the fresh air has had upon the Infant,

The vomiting diminishes in frequency, the stools are less in number, and of a healthier appearance, the patients countenance brightens, its fretfulness ceases, and the disease is partially ^{ted} arrested.

by the near removal into the fresh air.

Dentition being one of the most exciting causes we must not forget to look to this, as soon as convenient, the gums should be carefully lanced, care being taken not to injure the milk teeth, as this is frequently done by the unexperienced operator, but for all this, the gums must not be neglected, Next in point of view, in the Prophylactic treatment of the disease, is the diet, should the Mother's milk disagree, which is frequently the prime cause of the disease, you are not to prescribe other farinaceous articles of food, the cause is perhaps

from the too free use of the child
to the breast, then restrict it, and
see what effect it will produce,

Again the clothing should
be looked into; the temperature of
the child should be as uniform
as possible, this may be done ^{by} the
aid of flannel, and it acts well
also, as a friction to the skin,
and by this means a gentle
friction is kept up all over the
surface, the child should also
be kept from the damp air of rains,
and the cool fogs and dews of
the morning, the sudden chang^{es}
of weather, is much against the
arrest, of this disease, care should
always be taken ~~for~~ on the part
of the friends to this,

Therapeutic Remedies,

When the disease is in a mild form with but little gastro intestinal mucous inflammation, with slight fever and restlessness, simple remedies are all that is required. If the patient be removed into pure fresh air of the country, the gums be freely lanced, the diet regulated, and such other Hygienic measures ^{being} have been attended to, nature will go to work and frequently, the patient recovers with but little Medicinal remedies, these are important items to be observed in the treatment of this disease, should these measures fail other more active remedies must be called,

Into actions, such as the Spiced Syrup of Rhubarb combined with a few drops of the Champhorated tincture of Opium, will always give steady relief. Dr. J. H. Meigs relies greatly upon the Spiced Syrup of Rhubarb, it acts as an astringent and tonic,

When however the disease progresses, and vomiting, with signs of Entero Colitis and fever make their appearance the case requires other and more active remedies. To arrest vomiting is the first thing to do, the Practitioner should seek measures to do this, as this when done gives great ease to the patient,

One of the best remedies for this is minute doses of Calomel rubed up with a little white Sugar, about $\frac{1}{100}$ to $\frac{1}{15}$ gr of calomel with one two or three grains of white sugar give one of these papers every half hour. Applying a blister over the Epigastric region, after nausea and vomiting have been arrested a few drops of Spirits of Turpentine give $\frac{1}{2}$ ^{to} _{gr} one or two drops on a little Pul white sugar will most alway enter ally arrest the vomiting, or a solution of camphor in Sulphuric Ether repeated at short intervals seldom fails to arrest the vomiting. If the Stomach be irritable from an over amount of acid a solution of lime water and Sweet milk is an excellent remedy.

Dr. Cain of Charleston South Caroli^{-ne}
recommends Creasote as a valu-
-able remedy to allay vomiting and
arrest purging. Professor Winston spoke
very highly of its Therapeutic effect in
allaying the vomiting in this disease,
and gave a little Rescrip (to wit,

Ry Creasote 10 drops.

Muc Gum Arabic 1oz } dose 20 drops
every hour, untill vomiting ceases,

Dr. Candie, says "when every thing
else fails, we have seldom been
disappointed in removing the
irritability of the stomach by the
administration of the Acetate of
Lead in solution" and recommends
the following Rescrip (to wit,

Ry Pure Water 1℥ } Mix, and
Acetate Lead 5 grs } give a teaspoon
Acid acetic imp 5m } full,
White sugar — 3℥

give a teaspoonful every hour untill vomiting is arrested, "this he says seldom fails in the course of a few hours to arrest the vomiting,

As soon as irritability of the stomach is quieted, so as to allow of the administration of other Medicines Calomel, Acetate of Lead and Speccuanah should be resorted to as the most efficient remedy to affect a permanent cure, I would make a powder or pill. thus,

R₁ Calomel - - - 1 gr

℞ chalk 8 grs

Pul Speccuanah 1 gr

Acetate Lead 4 grs

Pul Opium 1 gr,

Make 6 paper or pills, One every two to three hours

The Hydrargyrum creta, is an excellent mode of administering Mercury in this disease, and Professor Wistar give the following Recipe (to wit)

R₁ Hydrargyrum creta, 8 grs

Doves powder 8 grs

Nitrate of Silver, 1 gr

Rubed together

Make 8 pills give one three times per day. I esteem this prescription ^{as} one of the best known in the Materia Medica, Dr Wood of Philadelphia recommends in this disease, the Mercurial and Lascative plan collectively to be adopted, alternating them, thus give the Mercury one day and the syrup of Rhubarb the next, I think this an excellent
- mode

Mercury is undoubtedly one of the best remedies we have for this disease, and I know of no form of the disease but what Mercury or some, one of its ^{compounds}, ~~could~~ ~~be~~ ~~used~~ could be used in. Although it is not every time the best to use it where the fibrin of the blood becomes diminished by a debilitated condition of the patient it is not to be used, it should not be carried to Excess with,

Mercury or some one of its compounds are valuable Medicines in most of Infantile diseases. It is taken free having no bad odor, or taste the little patient readily swallows it down, often times it has been given, too freely on this ^{account}

The tepid bath is an excellent application in this disease one too, too often neglected, one easy to be given, and perfectly harmless, one that every Mother can apply. Antiflogistics, are valuable remedies in Febril Diacrisis, cups, and leeches, may be applied to the abdomen, and epigastric region if tender to the touch; The active antiflogistics treatment is seldom resorted to, though, where arterial excitement runs high with a quick full pulse, you may with safety open a vein, and take blood,

Astringents are not much called for in the beginning of this disease, good effect, is derived from

the administration of small doses of Rhubarb Specacuanah and ℞ Chalk, through their astringent properties, even in the first stage of the disease, In the latter stage or chronic form of the disease, we find astringents valuable remedies, such, for instance as the Acetate of Lead, Prepared Chalk, and Crabseye, Nut-gall, Kino, Catechu, an Ratanha, are highly extolled by various writ^{ers} Dr. J. P. Meigs speaks very highly of the Krameria Tincture, and gives a Recipe (to wit)

R, Tinc Ratanha, ʒʒ.

Tinc Opium 12 grs.

Syrp Zingiber - ʒʒ.

Water 14 ʒ.

Mix & give a teaspoonful, four or five times
in the day - -

Dr Condie was very much in favor
of the Acetate of Lead as an Astring-
ent, I have seen the Carbon Ligni,
common charcoal, have a good
effect in the chronic form, more
particular when the faeces be very
offensive, I would give the follow^{ing}
in some Syrup or other Mucilage,
Gum Arabac, would be an excellent
vehicle, to administered in,

R_i Carbon Ligni, ʒij
Pul^{ver} Rhubarb, — 2 scruples,
Pul^{ver} Speacuanak 6 gr
Esch. Hyoscyamus, ʒ.

Make 12 paper (or pills) give one three
time per day, untill the offensive
smell is changed,

I have thus Gentlemen
blowed off what steam, I have in my

Boiler upon the Subject of Cholera,
Infantum, and submit the same
to your critic eye, hoping how^{ev}
you will all due allowance^s ^{make} for
the imperfect manner in which
I have speaking of the disease,