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CASE OF TYPHUS FEVER, WITH INFLAMMATION OF THE TONSILS.

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[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

JULY 24th.—I was called to visit a little girl, 9 years of age, who had been exceedingly delicate and feeble from childhood. For several years after birth, the foramen ovale of the heart had remained open; and her life was prolonged with extreme difficulty.

During the last winter, she had an attack of scarlet fever, which left her with inflammation and enlargement of the tonsils; so great as, at times, to threaten suffocation. She went through a course of various remedies during the winter; and in the spring she was brought to me to prescribe for her, for the first time. I directed a gargle of muriatic acid, which she used for some weeks, to the entire relief of all the distressing symptoms.

On my visit (July 24th) I found she had been taken ill at school the day before, complained of feeling very cold, and was sent home. She had had a cough for several weeks previous. On coming home from school a dose of rhubarb was given by her parents, but without benefit. When I saw her, the symptoms were languor, slight pain in the back, vomiting, difficult breathing and cough. The pulse was not full or hard, but rapid and decidedly of the typhus character. The danger of allowing symptoms of pneumonia to remain unchecked in so delicate a girl, as well as the tendency to vomit, decided me upon giving an antimonial emetic. I directed half a grain of antimony to be given in a tablespoonful of water, every ten minutes, until vomiting ensued. The emetic operated ten or eleven times, and was succeeded by a cathartic operation. She was so little exhausted by these operations, that she walked readily from one room to another without assistance.

On the next morning, the 25th, I found the cough and dyspnoea subsided. The good effect of the emetic was evident in the relief of these symptoms. On placing my ear to the chest, there was no abnormal sound. The breathing was the gentle, regular and unobstructed respiration of an adult. The pulse, however, was unchanged. She was lying on the sofa very quiet, but not apparently dull or languid. There was still some irritability of the stomach. I now gave simply a febrifuge mixture of nitrous ether, paregoric and antimony; and a Dover's powder at bed-time.

The next day, July 26th, I found her very much the same. She was still lying on the sofa ; there was still the same typhoid pulse unaltered, and the same quietude and absence of all other symptoms.

27th.—Complains now of soreness of the throat. Pulse as yesterday. As the stomach continued irritable, and the bowels were costive, I gave five grains of submuriate, to be followed by oil, and an injection, if no operation.

28th.—After the medicines and injection had a very free operation. I found her nearly the same as yesterday. The tonsils are now somewhat troublesome. I visited her in the evening, and found her not so well ; and her breathing was laborious. The fact, however, of her having so often suffered from this cause more severely, made me think less of this symptom than if it had been a novel one. The steady continuance of the same character of the pulse unchanged, small, and quick, however, made me anxious.

On the 29th, about 2 o'clock in the morning, I was desired to see her as speedily as possible, as she showed urgent symptoms of suffocation. On examining the throat, I found the tonsils greatly swollen, filling up the passage. Her mind was clear, and she spoke in a whisper. The pulse was still rapid, but it was now the full, strong pulse of inflammation. I scarified the tumor on the right side which was the largest, and there was a discharge of pus, with some temporary relief. I directed a mustard poultice to be applied hot to the throat, and the steam of hot vinegar to be inhaled from the nose of a teapot. The latter direction, however, was not carried into effect.

I repeated my visit about 7, A. M., and found her in the same condition. The parents now proposed to send for Dr. James, the experienced physician of Weston, who had attended the patient in infancy, to meet me in consultation, to which I readily assented.

Dr. James saw her with me about 10, A. M., and examined the throat as well as the general symptoms. He considered the general affection as most important ; and agreed with me that the case was one of extreme danger, though not desperate. He advised the freer use of antimonials, the exhibition of an injection, Dover's powder, ammoniated liniment to the neck, and vitriolic drinks.

The injection operated well. She took the medicine and drinks without difficulty, and without their exciting vomiting or nausea ; but there was no relief of the distress. I was sent for about 4, P. M., as it had increased. I found her still perfectly conscious, lying most of the time with her mouth open, the head low and stretched back, countenance livid, blueness about the nose, &c. I carried with me an inhaler, and exhibited, in this manner, the steam of hot water, which she was able to draw in, by her own efforts, on being directed to do so. I had ordered inhalation in the morning, but as I did not attend to its performance, it was neglected. It seemed now to give some slight relief, but the patient was evidently beyond the reach of medical treatment. She died about 10, P. M.

Inflammation of the tonsils is not in general considered as a dangerous

disease. It most generally terminates favorably, either by resolution or suppuration. During the prevalence of scarlatina anginosa in the spring of 1845, I had some twenty cases, all of which terminated favorably, though in one or two, the symptoms proceeded to such a degree, that immediate suffocation seemed imminent; but relief occurred by the breaking of the abscess and discharge of pus.

Dr. Gregory states, that cynanche tonsillaris is not dangerous, unless the enlargement of the tonsils causes them to press upon the glottis and produce spasm.

December 11th, 1846.

PROF. PAINE'S ADDRESS.*

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—Observing in a recent No. of your Journal an extract from Prof. Paine's late Valedictory Address to the graduating class of the New York University, entitled "A Defence," &c., I deem it my duty to ask a brief space in your pages for a reply. I do this for several reasons. First, because the address or "defence" contains many errors and misrepresentations; second, it *slanders*, instead of defends the medical profession of its author's own State; third, it inculcates unsound doctrines; and, fourth, because it would be manifestly unfair to wholly neglect the production of one who, not only "for the third time stands up *alone*, in the broad expanse of America, in an open *defence* of the *honor* and dignity of the profession of which he is a humble member;" but who is also so exceedingly *liberal* as to publish this *third* defence, at his *own expense*, in numerous *editions*, and directs them with his own hand to every physician within the sphere of his knowledge, whether in Europe or America, thereby leaving the reader to infer that it had met with an unprecedentedly rapid and extensive sale.

It will be remembered that previous to the meeting of the National Medical Convention, in May last, two or three articles were published in the New York Journal of Medicine, over the signature of N. S. D., relating to the present condition of the medical profession, and the necessity of some reforms. These articles Prof. Paine, in his "defence," represents as "duly authorized" emanations from the "Chairman of the Committee of the New York State Medical Society," instead of being simply the private views of the writer. And to sustain his position, he makes the following quotation from the article in the November No. of the New York Journal:—"There is, at present, a fair prospect for a *full* and *animated* convention. This being the case, we (the committee) hope it will not be deemed out of place for us to write," &c. My language in the Journal is as follows:—"We are *assured* that the *committee* to whom the subject has been entrusted, have been, and still are, actively engaged in the performance of *their* duties; and that there is at present

* "A Defence of the Medical Profession in the United States," by Martyn Paine, M.D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of New York.