

## Richmond, the Convention City

Richmond, where the Southern Medical Association meets, November 9, 10, 11, 12, 1914, as perhaps no other Southern city, typifies the evolution and development of the new and awakened South. This distinction is its first because of its age and association with colonial history, because it was the heart of the antebellum South, because it gave its money, blood and very existence to the Southern cause, and because it arose from the devastating ruins of the fallen Confederacy a new, mighty and progressive city.

Richmond stands today the first city in the South in a dozen ways. Its corporate limits, fifty years ago enclosing little more than a village, have expanded until they enclose 151,000 people in a territory of 26 square miles. Its manufacturing and jobbing commerce approaches \$200,000,000 annually, its bank clearings reach \$450,000,000 in twelve months, while its custom house collects more than \$1,000,000 in duties each year.

The fascinating cloak of romance which history has wrapped around Richmond and the State of Virginia has ever made Richmond a place of tourists and travel. Every foot of ground within a radius of miles has been a

battleground—battlegrounds, indeed, in more than one war.

Richmond's sixteen hotels accommodate each year more than 350,000 visitors. No city in the South can boast such magnificent hotel facilities.

Richmond has often been called a city of monuments. The reason for this title will be readily seen by the visitor. Such occasions for the rearing of monuments and memorials have been afforded in the existence of the city that it is easy to understand that every square should contain marble and bronze of absorbing interest.

In Richmond rest the bones of two Presidents of the United States, the revered James Monroe and the no less honored John Tyler, and the earthly remains of Jefferson Davis, whose grave is the shrine to which thousands make pilgrimage each year.

The city's claim on the visitor's interest, whether from a historical, commercial, or professional point, is astonishing. Coupled with its accessibility and handsome hotel accommodation this peculiar interest which the city exerts upon the stranger makes it ideally a convention city.

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## THERAPEUTICS

### THE PROPHYLAXIS OF TYPHOID FEVER.

Probably the views of physicians concerning the treatment of typhoid fever differ more widely than on any other point in therapeutics. In these columns the object is to give general consideration to the subject without attempting to decide in favor of any one plan further than to express briefly the views of its advocates. The physician who is thoroughly versed in the symptomatology and treatment of typhoid fever, with its many variations and frequent complications, is equipped for battle with many other diseases which, though of different etiology, have many similar symptoms. Of course, it is understood that the specific cause of typhoid fever is a low, cryptogamic organism

called the bacillus of Eberth. It multiplies readily in many different media, especially in sweet milk, and lives indefinitely in earth, water and fomites. Heat of 140 F. kills it, but no degree of cold afforded by nature destroys its vitality. Exposure to sunlight is said to destroy it, but it can support such exposure as is afforded by pools, streams, or marshes, open to even a semi-tropical sun, as was demonstrated in McWhorter's report of the Riverton epidemic in Alabama. The dejecta of a typhoid patient, thrown out upon frozen snow, have been proved to cause a desolating epidemic when the warm weather returned.

No patient can have typhoid fever into whose system this bacillus has not found its way. The

most usual avenue of infection is the mouth, and the bearers of the poison are generally the food or drink.

One epidemic in a dry and dusty country town, with houses far apart, was accounted for on the theory that dejecta of a typhoid patient in a dry, hot summer, were regularly thrown out of doors to mingle with the dry dust which rose with every wind and fell upon the surrounding roofs that were the sources of drinking water, in the cisterns. The discharges from the bowels and the kidneys of typhoid fever patients swarm with millions of these bacilli, and flies that crawl upon them become covered with the infection which, for weeks, they can distribute upon whatsoever food they may reach.

Door knobs in houses where the disease exists are often infected so that the fingers of those who use them are liable to convey the poison to any fruit or other substance that they may touch.

Even as little knowledge of the etiology of typhoid fever as has been above expressed will serve as a foundation for an efficient prophylaxis against the disease, and as prevention is better than cure, the means thereof will first be briefly considered.

Certain things will destroy the vitality of the bacillus of Eberth. Heat, especially that of boiling water, is one of them, and is always available. A solution of bichloride of mercury 1:2000, or four grains to the pint, will destroy it in clothing or bedding that has been infected. The vapor of formaldehyde gas emanating from a pint of the 60 per. cent solution, called formalin, diluted with two quarts of water and profusely sprinkled upon sheets hanging upon lines in the room will disin-

fect an apartment sixteen feet square and ten feet high.

The one-millionth part of the substance popularly known as chloride of lime or bleaching powder will disinfect the drinking water of a city without changing its taste. Without any other precaution, simply boiling the drinking water will render it safe from typhoid or any other infection. When it has cooled its original sparkle and tastefulness can be completely restored by pouring it two or three times from one vessel into another, or by shaking it up in a bottle only three-quarters full. This entirely removes the flat taste of water that has been boiled.

Knowing what typhoid fever is, where it is, and how to prevent it, it is little less than amazing that the political authorities, whose duty it is to supervise and protect the welfare of the people over whom they preside, should allow such a preventable disease to continue to multiply and depopulate the earth.

The most efficient prophylaxis thus far devised and operated is vaccination against the disease. It has proven as efficacious as vaccination against smallpox and has protected, without exception, all who have submitted to it. The length of time the immunity persists is known to be over three years. How much longer is yet to be learned.

So efficacious has it proven that various state boards of health are manufacturing it and supplying it free of charge to the health authorities in the various counties who apply for it, and it is administered free. And every soldier and sailor of the United States is thus protected against this disease, which was heretofore the danger point of every campaign. (To Be Continued.)

## CORRESPONDENCE

### ON SUCCESS IN THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

#### ANOTHER DOSE OF WHAT DAD THINKS.

My Dear Son: I have had it on my mind to write you a letter regarding the art and science of success in the practice of medicine, and, as this is a day of rain, and no one seems inclined to come in and prevent it, I will give you a few of the ideas I have gathered in the thirty-seven years I have been in practice. Of course, I know just as well as you do that the things I say will have no effect, as a man to thoroughly demonstrate his inherent manhood is compelled to cast aside every means of learning except that of personal

and often bitter, experience. But I will proceed as if I thought you would take it all in and profit by it to the limit, and, really, I do hope you will think a little of the things I tell you, and consider that I have had some fairly good chances to get a lot of knowledge and to watch the game of life, as played by the doctors, from the inside.

There are, of course, several kinds of success, and different doctors have different ideals. To some the test of this age is enough, and to know that a man began poor and ended rich is evidence in plenty that he has been successful. In an age when it was considered necessary, to be handsome if a man, or beautiful if a woman, to be