

RECOVERY FROM THE COLLAPSE OF CHOLERA.

Case of Recovery from the Collapse of Malignant Cholera. By JOHN C. HOWARD, M.D. Physician to the House of Industry at S. Boston.

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DECEMBER 1, 1832. At 5 o'clock, A. M. I was informed that Jones, a boy aged fourteen years, was relaxed and had had several stools during the preceding night. He told his teacher that his dejections came away like frost. Rev. Mr. Haskins went up stairs to see him, and found him lively and talkative. Did not think him very sick ; says he had been relaxed since Wednesday. Felt his pulse and tongue ; found the one small and irregular, and the other cold. Dr. Palmer was called up, who passed the night at the House of Industry ; he examined his stools, tongue and pulse. His evacuations were of a thin, watery nature, and the comparison to frost was probably suggested by the froth on the surface of the vessel, occasioned by the chloride of lime put therein the evening previous. Dr. P. having ordered him below, Mr. H. came down stairs with him, and when he had reached the sick room he appeared like one struck with a distemper, as the latter gentleman observed ; he was pale and weak, threw himself upon the bed, and had his clothes taken off.

7 o'clock, A. M. The change that has taken place in Jones is truly terrible. Appearance cadaverous ; pulse gone ; horrible cramps ; cold legs and arms ; nose, lips and tongue also cold, as well as breath. Had a large quantity of strong mercurial ointment with cayenne pepper rubbed in the inside of the thighs.

10 o'clock, A. M. Still cold. Rubbed with hot vinegar and strong cayenne pepper, without the least effect.

11 o'clock. Pulse gone ; coldness extreme ; voice hardly audible ; eyes much sunken and black ; dejections very large, watery, and containing slimy adhesive matters, capable of being taken on a stick.

12 o'clock. Bled him from the left arm ; obtained but two tablespoonfuls of blood, which soon congealed like jelly ; no serum. At this time I gave up his case as hopeless ; but anxious to do something, I administered 40 grs. of the submur. hydrarg. in a tablespoon with sugar.

6 o'clock, P. M. Vomiting and purging ceased, pulse returned. Flesh warmer ; countenance less cadaverous ; eyes more prominent, blood in some degree returned to them ; voice more natural ; somewhat comatose.

December 2. **10 o'clock, A. M.** Bled Jones from the right temporal artery, with a view to relieve congestion of the brain and coma, about a gill and a half.

4 o'clock, P. M. Pulse 100 ; full, distinct and regular. Face, limbs, extremities, all above the usual warmth. The former flushed ; tongue moist and warm ; no sickness at the stomach. A basin of water being overturned, he spoke out quite lively, and told the nurse he would ' find something under the bed to wipe it up with.' Complains of no pain except in the head ; upon being asked where, he answered, ' in the brain.' Not at all restless.

6 o'clock, P. M. He had a dejection about one, a pint of muddy water ; pulse feebler in consequence.

December 3. 4 o'clock, A. M. Went into the room, and found him asleep with his eyelids closed, which had previously been kept open most of the time. Was informed he had complained of a pain in his head a short time before. Skin warm ; pulse 98.

5 o'clock, A. M. Was bled from right arm by Dr. Wing ; took away 10 3. Teeth ache severely.

10 o'clock, A. M. Found him asleep with his eyes open.

2 o'clock, P. M. Prescribed blister of flies on back of neck, and cold vinegar to the head ; eyes were closed ; pulse 100, and tolerably full and regular ; comatose ; teeth ache badly ; administered 30 drops paregoric.

3 o'clock, P. M. Very restless, in great pain from teeth ; gave 25 drops paregoric.

6 o'clock, P. M. Nurse says he passed a half pint of urine, which was of good color.

9 o'clock, P. M. In pain from blisters, was very nervous and restless.

December 4. 5 o'clock, A. M. Was more quiet and easy.

7 o'clock. Saw a dejection, which was watery, with a thick, dark and slimy substance ; pulse 112 ; very much debilitated. Blisters drawn well, and dressed.

12 o'clock. Had a dejection, which was watery, with green flakes floating in it, resembling small pieces torn from green velvet, which I thought inspissated bile ; quite weak from several dejections.

3 o'clock, P. M. Pulse 116 ; very much debilitated. Prescribed as a tonic astringent, 3j. of Tinct. Cinnamon and Kino. Had one small dejection.

7 o'clock, P. M. Had another evacuation, unlike the last ; more of a black appearance ; considerable fetor to it. Nurse says he asked, a short time since, if he could have a piece of meat.

December 5. 5 o'clock, A. M. Dr. Gay, passing night at House of Industry, gave an opiate to relieve toothache. 8 o'clock. Says he feels better ; looks more comfortable ; speaks louder ; pulse 112. Has made a pint of healthy urine ; wanted beef steak ; was promised beef tea ; symptoms of coma subsided. Had no evacuation during the night ; fever low typhus ; tonics indicated ; thirst somewhat abated. 2 o'clock, P. M. Still better ; took some rare beef gravy, and a small strip of beef, which he seized with the greatest avidity. 4 o'clock, P. M. Looks brighter ; face flushed, pulse 100 ; says the juice of the beef has made him better. Drinks arrowroot with a little brandy in it, and has no inclination to vomit ; no stools. 9 o'clock, P. M. Was seen by Dr. Sumner, who passed the night at the House of Industry. Complained of his teeth aching severely, for which he received an anodyne ; passed a comfortable night.

December 6, 1-2 past 10, A. M. Found him in much the same state as yesterday ; passed a pint of limpid urine. No dejection ; skin in a good condition ; tongue warm, and rather dry, like that which is seen in convalescents from typhous fever. If no dejection, ordered Olei Ricini

3 ss. 1 o'clock. To relieve pain of gums and sore mouth, 20 drops of laudanum. 4 o'clock, P. M. Found him in a calm sleep. 6 o'clock, P. M. Still sleeping comfortably, no dejection through the day ; complains of his teeth.

December 7. 9 o'clock, A. M. Has had two good bilious dejections ; says he feels sick at his stomach, probably occasioned by the oil taken an hour since. Says he is not so well as yesterday ; pain in his stomach ; looks anxious ; pulse 100.

December 8. 10 o'clock, A. M. Doing well ; pulse 90 ; two good bilious dejections ; passed more than a pint of limpid urine ; used for sore mouth, a solution of tincture myrrh, alternating with a decoction of white oak bark and alum. For nourishment, mutton broth.

December 9. Improving ; no medicine indicated ; appetite eager ; recovery certain.*

The following fatal case was also observed by Dr. Howard, at the House of Industry, and communicated by him for publication.

December 7. 3 o'clock, P. M., William Rainsford, æt. 56, an inmate of the House of Industry, was met in the wood yard by the Superintendent, going toward the privy, who observing he looked unwell, asked him if he had a diarrhœa ; he said he had been troubled in that way for several days past, had suffered from cold stomach and bowels for a fortnight, and had occasionally vomited cold water. Mr. Simonds advised him to take some medicine to check the diarrhœa. At 6 o'clock he came to him, and said his complaint continued ; his countenance then looked worse, and he was observed to tremble ; appeared frightened. A tumbler of brandy and water, with half a teaspoonful of cayenne pepper, was administered by Mr. Simonds, which he vomited immediately. He went directly to bed, and was seen in half an hour. Had warm face, feet and hands, and it seemed probable he would do well. Shortly the diarrhœa returned ; he imprudently left the room, and purged copiously a thin watery fluid. At 1-2 past 8 his appearance was much worse, purging continued ; evacuations took the rice-water appearance. 11 o'clock, P. M. Growing worse ; took half a drachm of the submuriate, which was probably rejected, as vomiting returned.

December 8. 11 o'clock, A. M. By great exertion succeeded in taking 12 ounces of blood from the right arm ; no serum ; cramps severe ; hands and feet much corrugated ; administered a drachm of submuriate hydrarg. In two hours after the pulse was stronger ; cramps continued ; rubbed with snow, which soon relieved him. 1-2 past 12 o'clock, P. M. Bled from left arm, an ounce obtained ; serum absent ; breathing very laborious ; cramps ceased ; pulse 88, small and weak ; rubbed inside the thighs, strong mercurial ointment, with cayenne and camphor ; sinapisms to the feet and hands, previous to which they were soaked in hot water. 4 o'clock, P. M. Pulse almost gone ; hands and feet much corrugated and very cold ; countenance cadaverous ; alteration from yesterday truly astonishing. Voice almost gone ; can speak only

* Dr. Palmer was present when the patient was taken sick, and administered an emetic, which was ejected immediately, with no bile. He saw him sink into collapse, and expressed his decided opinion of approaching death, as did other persons who saw him.

in a whisper ; very restless ; debility extreme ; cramps less frequent ; fast sinking into collapse. 8 o'clock, P. M. Pulse imperceptible ; respiration very laborious ; thirst intense ; discharges less frequent. Ordered a scruple of submuriate hydrarg. every half hour, with a view to bring about reaction. Seems conscious of the probable termination of his case, and is reluctant to take anything ; very thirsty ; seen occasionally through the night by Dr. Gay. Died at 6, A. M. December 9th.

Post Mortem Examination.—*Lungs*, found as usual in this disease, in a state of extreme congestion ; adhesions to the parietes, consequence of old inflammation. *Stomach*, somewhat inflamed, and contained considerable thin fluid ; mucous coat easily taken off by the handle of the scalpel, and clearly showing serous coat. *Intestines*, very much inflamed, to the complete disorganization of mucous membrane ; the small intestines containing three pints of bloody serum. *Liver*, very much congested with blood, the consequence of collapse ; otherwise healthy. *Bladder*, very much contracted, about the size of a walnut. *Brain*, vessels fully injected, a considerable effusion between the membranes, and a considerable deposit of serum in the ventricles.

CLINICAL NOTES.

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Erysipelas.

IN February, 1831, a young woman, after a laborious travail with her first child, remained quite comfortable thirty hours. She then had a cold chill, succeeded by heat, pain, tumefaction and tension of the bowels, with suppression of the lochia. Warm baths, cathartics and anodynes, were used, and had the desired effect, so far as *entirely* to remove the pain, swelling and inflammation in the bowels—even the soreness and tenderness to the touch seemed to subside in a night. Under these favorable circumstances I heard her make a slight moan, and thought she had an *after pain*, which might possibly have a favorable effect upon the lochia ; but this pain was in the side !

Very early the next morning, with surprise, I found her sick with pleurisy—pain in the side and distress for breath, with the other appearances usually accompanying inflammation in the pleura and lungs—lochia still suppressed. I bled her lightly, which gave some relief. I blistered the side, and applied a bladder of hot milk and water to her. The next morning she was worse—had experienced a distressed and restless night ; occasionally a little delirious, with a slight cough. I took about three ounces more of blood from the arm, gave some opium, and applied another blistering plaster near the former.

We had now a new and very extraordinary appearance before our eyes. Across the patient's breast there was a *pale, dirty-looking and slightly inflammatory efflorescence*. At first I thought it the effect of the flies ; but the attendants said ' no, the plaster has not slipped,' and said it looked as though *tar* had been applied to the skin. This appearance