

being added, the work is one of the handiest of manuals. The author says that the year 1875 has not been distinguished for any first-class discovery in medical science, notwithstanding that much has been done to acquaint us more intimately with discoveries previously made. The two new remedies, jaborandi and salicylic acid, are mentioned as having occupied to a considerable extent the attention of physicians, and the part that the vegetable organisms play in disease has been a subject of discussion in both France and England. In physiology the blood has been the principal object of attention, as to its formation, temperature, and coagulation. Considerable space is given in the work to therapeutics; and the new applications of remedies to various affections are noticed. In surgery reference is made to anæsthesia, forcipressure, the elastic ligature, and the transfusion of blood; nor are the new discoveries and developments in ophthalmology, legal medicine, and other branches of our science passed by unnoticed. In fine, this, the eleventh, year of the publication of the annual presents us with a volume fully up to the high standard of excellence which its predecessors have attained.

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## BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL.

### MEDICAL CLINIC.

[SERVICE OF DR. J. N. BORLAND AND DR. HALL CURTIS.]

*Acute Rheumatism.* — CASE I. C. E., cook, male, twenty-five years old, entered the hospital January 2, 1876, with a second attack. The right knee, ankle, shoulder, and elbow, as well as the left knee, were swollen, red, and painful. There were aortic systolic and mitral presystolic murmurs. Pulse 108; temperature 102°, P. M. Cotton and oiled silk were applied to the joints.

℞ Chambers's mixture, 3i. ter die.

Dover's powder p. r. n.

January 7th. The temperature was 103.6°; pulse 120, P. M.

January 8th. Patient more restless and complaining of pain. Chambers's mixture omitted.

℞ Vini colchici seminis, gtt. x. ter die.

January 14th. Patient anæmic; colchicum omitted.

℞ Ferri valerianatis, gr. i. ter die.

January 18th. Improved; ordered half an ounce of fresh lemon juice every four hours.

February 4th. Up and dressed.

February 13th. Pain has returned; patient was placed on salicylic acid, ten grains every hour, while awake; he took five doses without any effect. The acid was omitted; Chambers's mixture resumed and continued till the 25th. Patient discharged February 28th, much relieved.

CASE II. H. F., brakeman, twenty-five years old, entered hospital January 14th, with a second attack. The ankle and toe joints were affected; there was also rheumatoid iritis. He was placed on Chambers's mixture, one ounce ter die. The eye was treated with solution of atropia and fomentations. His pains continued without relief until February 14th, when the alkaline treatment was

discontinued, and salicylic acid was given in ten-grain doses every hour while the patient was awake. After eight doses had been taken the pain was relieved. The acid was continued in hourly doses during the day-time until February 25th, when the patient was entirely free from pain, some stiffness of the joints remaining. He complained of nausea at the beginning, but had no other ill effect from the medicine. After February 25th the acid was given in ten-grain doses three times daily until March 2d, when it was discontinued and tincture of the muriate of iron, twenty drops three times daily, was ordered. The patient complained of pain, slight in character and fugitive, till March 10th, when he was entirely well.

CASE III. C. W., waiter, twenty-three years old, entered with a first attack; two of his brothers had had rheumatism. The patient had been sick ten days with severe pain in the knees, ankles, and loins. Three weeks before, he had contracted gonorrhœa, and at the time of his admission he had a slight urethritis. The heart was normal. Temperature 100°. From January 24th till February 13th he was treated with Chambers's mixture and opiates. The pain still being very troublesome, he was placed on salicylic acid, ten grains every hour during the day. The following morning he was entirely relieved. The acid was continued in ten-grain doses every two hours until February 18th, when it was discontinued. The patient complained of nausea during its use. Three days later the pains returned in the lumbar region, but were readily relieved by a blister. Discharged, well, March 10th.

CASE IV. C. R., washerwoman, thirty-seven years old, entered with a first attack February 4th, having been sick four days. Her mother had rheumatism. On entrance, the patient's knees, shoulders, and elbows were very tender, but not swollen. The heart was normal. Temperature 100.7°. February 12th she was placed on salicylic acid, ten grains every hour while she was awake, and this treatment was continued till the 19th. The pains diminished during that time, though the drug caused headache, ringing in the ears, and constipation. She was discharged on March 2d, relieved.

CASE V. D. C. entered hospital February 9th. His mother died with heart disease. He had been sick ten days; his hips, shoulders, and wrists were affected. Temperature 100.9°. He was placed on Chambers's mixture till the 12th, with decided improvement. Temperature 99.3°. The Chambers's mixture was then discontinued and salicylic acid was given, ten grains every hour while the patient was awake.

February 13th. The morning temperature was 98.2°; pulse 76. Evening temperature 97°; pulse 54.

February 14th. The morning temperature was 98.5°; pulse 60.

February 15th. The acid was given in ten-grain doses every two hours.

February 17th. The patient was doing well in every respect. The acid was given three times daily.

February 19th. Free from pain. Acid omitted. No return of pain.

March 1st. Discharged, well.

CASE VI. A. A., seamstress, has had several attacks; entered hospital February 11th; three days sick; hips and knees severely affected. Temperature 101.5°. Aortic systolic murmur.

February 12th. Was placed on salicylic acid, ten grains every hour. She

received the first dose at eight P. M., and this was repeated every hour till eleven P. M., when she became perfectly free from pain.

February 13th. Freedom from pain continues, though joints are tender on pressure. Catamenia appeared last night, though not due till March 1st. The acid was continued.

February 14th. Free from pain. Slept well; ringing in ears and slight degree of nausea last evening. She objects strongly to medicine.

February 15th. Joints can be flexed without pain. A. M. Pulse 80; respirations 28; temperature 99.6°. P. M. Pulse 100; respirations 20; temperature. 100°. Catamenia very profuse. Acid omitted; ordered fluid extract of ergot. five drops every hour; this checked the flow. There was no return of pain.

February 26th. The patient was discharged, well.

CASE VII. N. D., housemaid, thirty years, entered with a third attack February 28th. On the 23d her knees, hips, back, elbows, and fingers were affected. She now complained of pain in the knees and fingers; the knees were swollen. There was a mitral systolic murmur. P. M. Pulse 100; respirations 28; temperature 100.2°. Salicylic acid was given in ten-grain doses every hour while the patient was awake. This treatment was continued till March 1st. She now refused it, as she was troubled with headache and vomiting, with steady continuance of pain. The acid was omitted, and tinctura ferri muriatis, twenty drops three times daily, was ordered and continued till March 16th, when it was omitted. Pain entirely gone.

CASE VIII. A. B., painter, thirty-six years old. Father died with rheumatism. Patient has had three attacks; entered the hospital February 2d, having been sick twelve days. At time of entrance the ankles, feet, and knees were affected. Temperature 100.2°. He was placed on Chambers's mixture, half an ounce three times daily. The pain entirely disappeared on the 6th, though there was still some stiffness in the joints. He was discharged, well, on the 16th, but reëntered on the 22d. When he resumed his work the rheumatism returned in both ankles, the right knee, and the hip. Salicylic acid was ordered in ten-grain doses every hour while the patient was awake. At the evening visit he complained of vomiting.

February 24th. The acid was now given every two hours. The pain had somewhat diminished. The joints were covered with cotton batting and oiled silk. Patient complained of slight headache; no ringing in ears. There was no tingling of the skin; the tongue was moist and fresh.

February 25th. Complains of constipation; acid stopped till intestines have been emptied.

February 27th. Acid recommenced this evening, and continued during the night till two A. M., when the pain was relieved.

February 28th. Acid omitted. Ordered tinctura ferri muriatis, twenty drops ter die. No return of pain.

March 5th. Discharged, well.

CASE IX. John S., twenty years old, hatmaker, entered hospital with a first attack March 5th. He had been sick seven days. His elbows, wrists, knees, and feet were much swollen, red and painful; profuse perspiration. Temperature, A. M., 100.6°; P. M., 102.2°. Cardiac sounds distinct; no murmur. Pa-

tient was put into blankets, with cotton batting applied to joints. Ordered salicylic acid, ten grains *ter die*.

March 8th. Temperature 102°. Pains and swelling as bad as ever. Acid omitted. Chambers's mixture, half an ounce *ter die*, ordered. Complete relief followed.

March 20th. Discharged, well.

CASE X. P. M., laborer, thirty years old; has been sick with his first attack three weeks, with pain in the shoulders and arms, wrists, knees, back, and thighs. On entrance, March 10th, the right knee was swollen and painful; the other joints were easy. Ordered salicylic acid, ten grains *ter die*. This was continued till the 17th with entire relief to pain. The acid was then omitted, and *tinctura ferri muriatis*, twenty drops *ter die*, was ordered.

CASE XI. E. H., thirty-five years, a real-estate agent. Entered hospital March 15th, having been sick four days; feet, ankles, and knees were much swollen and very painful. The heart was normal. Ordered salicylic acid, ten grains every hour while the patient was awake.

March 16th. Nausea and repeated vomiting. Medicine omitted.

March 17th. Patient was placed on Chambers's mixture, half an ounce *ter die*.

March 23d. Patient was free from pain.

March 26th. Was up and dressed, though complaining of slight tenderness in feet.

CASE XII. K. H., a housemaid, twenty-three years old, entered the hospital March 1st with her first attack; she had been sick four days; now has great swelling and pain in the knees and ankles. Temperature 101.6°. Salicylic acid was ordered, ten grains every hour while the patient was awake.

March 2d. Patient refuses to take the acid, as she cannot retain it. Acid to be continued in pill with honey. Temperature A. M., 101.6°; P. M., 103.5°.

March 3d. Temperature, A. M., 101.2°; P. M., 101°. Nausea and headache. Pain less. Acid continued, in ten-grain doses four times daily.

March 4th. Pain entirely gone. Nausea continues. Temperature, A. M., 99.3°; P. M., 99.2°.

March 5th. Acid continued, in ten-grain doses, twice daily. Temperature 98°.

March 10th. Acid omitted. *Quinix sulphas*, gr. i. 3 t. d.

March 18th. Discharged, well.

CASE XIII. F. D., housemaid, nineteen years old, entered the hospital March 16th; she had been sick four days; both feet and arms were much swollen and very painful. Temperature 99.6°. Salicylic acid was given, ten grains hourly while the patient was awake.

March 17th. Acid continued, in ten-grain doses *ter die*. Pains better.

March 18th. Acid continued, in ten-grain doses twice daily. Temperature 98.4°.

March 20th. Pains have nearly gone. Patient wishes to get up.

March 23d. Discharged, well.

CASE XIV. S. S., cigar maker, twenty-seven years old, entered hospital with a second attack March 17th. He had been sick three days; the knees, shoulders, and feet were swollen, red, and painful. The heart was normal. Tem-

perature 102.8°. Patient placed in blankets, and salicylic acid, ten grains every hour during the day, ordered.

March 20th. Pain and swelling entirely gone. Acid continued, in ten-grain doses *ter die*.

March 24th. Acid omitted. No return of pain.

#### RÉSUMÉ.

- Case 1. No effect from salicylic acid.
2. Alkalies for a month ; then acid, eight doses, with relief.
  3. Alkalies for twenty days without relief ; acid in one day gave relief.
  4. Acid for seven days ; patient well.
  5. Alkalies two days ; acid seven days with entire relief.
  6. Relief after four doses of acid ; this was continued four days. Recovery.
  7. Acid three days without relief. Followed by tincture of chloride of iron for fifteen days. Recovery.
  8. Alkalies gave relief in four days. Recurrence. Acid given four days with entire relief.
  9. Acid three days ; no relief. Alkalies for twelve days. Recovery.
  10. Acid seven days with entire relief.
  11. Acid refused by stomach. Alkalies during eleven days with relief.
  12. Acid for nine days. Complete relief after the first four days.
  13. Acid five days with relief. Discharged, well, in seven days.
  14. Acid seven days ; complete relief in three days.

Except in one or two instances, the salicylic acid was given in wafers.

HALL CURTIS, M. D.

#### LETTER FROM WASHINGTON.

MESSRS. EDITORS,— The event of this month for the profession here has been the commencement exercises of the three medical colleges. By their united efforts these colleges have succeeded in sending forth thirty-two graduates to swell the list of M. D.'s : Howard University graduated seven, the University of Georgetown thirteen from a class of thirty-seven, Columbian University (National Medical College) twelve from a class of fifty-four. With this irruption comes the annual moralizing in the profession about the multiplying of medical colleges and the advantage or injury thereby to those already in the ranks of practitioners. The reason for the establishment of new medical schools is very easily given ; it is probably found in the same causes here as in other communities, the chief of these being the fear of too great prominence on the part of a few men who hold hospital appointments, and who secure therefrom consultations and corresponding profits. The National Medical College is by far by the oldest of our professional schools ; it is now in its fifty-fourth year, and this certainly entitles it to the respect due to age. It has always pursued the even tenor of its way, disturbed only by the outbreak of the rebellion, which necessitated a temporary suspension. The Medical Department of Georgetown University is now in its twenty-eighth year. It is rumored that there will