

PREVALENT DISEASES, &C.

Our county has been remarkably exempt from the epidemics and endemics during the past year. Scarlatina, reubeola and pertussis were met with in a few localities, but most cases were mild.

FEVERS.

Intermittent fever is rarely met with. Sometimes a few cases occur which have been contracted abroad. They generally yield to appropriate treatment.

Remittent fever has been more prevalent than in former years. It is mostly confined to a few localities. Some cases are severe and occasionally fatal, but are not troublesome when promptly treated.

Typhus fever is not met with. Typhoid fever is a common disease in this county. It prevails more or less every year, commencing generally in the early part of the summer and continues during the fall, and sometimes into winter. It is not considered contagious, nor is it very fatal. I have observed the first cases in the season to commence on the east side of streams, and occasionally where there was but a small quantity of pure fresh water, but moisture, more or less, on the west side of the residences. In a few localities in the county contiguous to mill-dams and other ponds of water it frequently assumes remissions simulating remittent fever. At Greenville and Diamondville this form prevailed and many of the cases were fatal. Dr. W. B. Stewart, of Greenville, informs me that during an epidemic in that place, in the best marked cases of typhoid fever, with all the general and local symptoms of the disease, doses of sulphate of quinine would give it a remittent form. The treatment pursued by most physicians in the county is such as is laid down in the text books. I have administered quin. sulph. in small doses (one grain) about every three or four hours in connection with such remedies as are required to control the local and general disturbances with the happiest effects. I frequently commence the quinine at my first visit, and have never seen cause to regret it. I believe quinine has very much the same specific influence on the peculiar poison in the blood of a typhoid patient that it has in intermittent and remittent diseases. I think the great error of many is in the administration of large doses; large doses never succeeded very well in my practice. The doses should be small and well-timed, so that it will be taken up in the circulation without making a strong impression on the nervous system. Since I adopted this course of treatment, in good constitutions, without any complications, I seldom lose a case or have erysipelas or abscess in the last stage of the disease. In May, 1858, there were a few cases of typhoid fever on the branch of Mahoning creek, that assumed a very malignant form. About a week from the commencement of the attack, on some part of the surface, a severe burning sensation would be felt, very painful to the touch, in a few hours it would become red, then purple and shortly after, black, generally, not more than twelve hours from the time the pain was first felt, the part would begin to slough and even the bones would exfoliate. Most of the cases died. A great many remedies were tried, but the treatment that appeared to mitigate the symptoms most was quinine and spts. turpentine, pushed as far as the patients would bear, with anodynes sufficient to allay pain and procure rest. Some of them lived till portions of the body sloughed and dropped off. It may be proper to remark here that no mercurials were used in any of the cases.

SMALL-POX

Is not often met with. Sometimes vaccination is neglected for a year or two, and a few cases may be contracted before it can be accomplished for protection. The members of the profession generally concur in attesting the value and power of vaccination.

MEASLES.

There are generally cases of measles every year. They are but seldom fatal, unless there is some complication. The antiphlogistic treatment is sometimes necessary, but generally an expectant one is all that is required.

SCARLATINI.

Almost every year it is seen, but generally of a virulent character. It has prevailed epidemically every six or seven years, when it is more malignant and frequently fatal. No disease has been treated in a greater

variety of forms that this. Some have tried the stimulating plan of treatment by administering alcoholic preparations throughout the course of the disease, but I believe this mode of treatment has few advocates in this part of the country at present. Most practitioners pursue a cautious antiphlogistic treatment. The *veratrum viride* has been extolled by some. Others depend on cold ablutions, while others again prefer and treat with chlorate of potassa. Chloride of sodium in solution with capsicum is frequently used for a gargle.

OTHER DISEASES.

Pneumonia occurs in all parts of the county during the winter and spring; it is generally of a sthenic character. Active antiphlogistic treatment is required in some cases. But one communication has been received on the disease; Dr. Anthony, of Marion, writes: "In November and December, I had a number of cases of pneumonia, all of whom recovered. The treatment in all cases was phlebotomy, cupping, antimony and morphia, to act as a sedative and expectorant; and in some mercurials were pushed till the gums were slightly affected. Also counter-irritation with blisters six by eight inches."

Pleurisy is very common in this part of the country. It generally yields to antiphlogistic treatment.

HEART DISEASE.

During the past year there were more heart affections than has been known before. Many of them proved fatal. Some very suddenly. There was one peculiarity about most of the cases; a large number of them were among those in comfortable circumstances; that lived well, the most industrious, and generally of regular and temperate habits.

INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM

Is very common in our county. It appears to be on the increase; it is not generally manageable by the treatment recommended in the text books. Many physicians have varied their mode of treatment in this disease very much. I have not been favored with any communications on this subject. From intercourse with a very large number of the members of the profession, I learn that many depend much on the iodide of potassium, after the acute inflammatory period is passed. I have used some times with decided benefit, something like the following: Bichloride of mercury, 10 to 12 grains; muriate of ammonia, 1 dram; iodide of potassium, 1 ½ ozs.; water, 1 pint. Dose, from 40 to 60 drops, three or four times a day.

Within the last few months I treated a few cases with tartrate of soda and potassa and *veratrum viride*, with anodynes at night sufficient to procure rest and allay pain. I am free to say that I never had rheumatic cases to do so well as those under this mode of treatment.

CONSUMPTION

Has been increasing rapidly during the last few years; it forms a very large space in the mortuary list of our county. Most cases are hereditary, a few can be traced to neglected colds, &c.; but the gradual increased hereditary tendency is truly alarming to the sanitary observer. It is not necessary to speak of the treatments or the results of the treatment, it is here the same as in all other places.

SCROFULA.

Scrofula is frequently met with; a large proportion of the cases are hereditary, and generally terminates in phthisis.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Veratrum viride may properly be considered a new remedy amongst physicians, and has generally been satisfactory. In many cases it is spoken of in the highest terms as to its controlling influence over the heart and arteries. As far as I have tried it, I have been pleased with its effects. When used for a length of time diarrhoea generally sets in.

Yellow jessamine has been tried in certain forms of inflammation of the mucous membranes without giving satisfaction.

The hypo-phosphates have been tried by a few physicians without giving satisfaction.

SURGERY.

The surgical cases during the past year have not been numerous, occasionally an amputation, a few cases of extripation of the mammary glands, with fractures of the extremities and clavicle, are the principal. In fractures of the femur, Desault's apparatus is generally used.

In fractures of the leg, the fracture-box is used by some – others prefer a modification of Desault's apparatus. In fractures of the clavicle, Foxe's apparatus with a shoulder brace.

BIRTHS.

Of 404 births reported, 214 were males and 190 females.

TOBACCO.

Most persons are satisfied that many of the hereditary diseases are increasing amongst us with fearful rapidity. We cannot help pausing at times and ask ourselves the question, why is this so? No one will doubt that there are many causes for it – but by examining one by one, the supposed or real causes, carefully and impartially, we must say that the excessive use of tobacco, so common in our country for many years past is the principal. No article so injurious to the human economy is in so general use – we might say universal use. The habit is so common, that persons not addicted to it might be termed exceptions.

Wood & Bache, in the United States Dispensary, speaking of the effects of tobacco, say that “tobacco, when used in excess, enfeebles digestion, produces emaciation, and general debility; and lays the foundation of serious nervous disorders – sometimes mental disorder, closely resembling *delerium tremens*.” It is liable to disorder the digestive organs and produce general debility. Can the blood be in a healthy state during the use of an accumulative toxic principle? I think not. If the blood is not affected, why the emaciation and serious nervous derangement? Is not the blood the source from which the component parts of every tissue derives its material. The modification of its elements must then modify the secretory – the nutrient, as well as the nervous action. Are not hereditary diseases produced by some primary modification in the constitution or elements of the blood? It is well known that this agent will affect the system applied locally, taken into the mouth or inhaled into the lungs. It has proved fatal in many cases administered in different forms. In all defects and changes in the blood, each particle must participate, and the solids suffer in proportion to their physiological relation; hence the corresponding changes in the secretions. The nervous derangement is another evidence of its destructive property, as the nervous system is subject to influences through the blood, and is deeply in all the phenomena of the living being in health and disease.

I think it will not be disputed that the system of the tobacco chewer and smoker becomes saturated with the substances; for instance subject one of them to process, like what the hydropathist calls packing, and then examine the linen. I need not offer more. Now, the question may be put: Can an unhealthy being, diseases, poisoned and emaciated beget the reverses? We all know that there are certain tendencies and predispositions, and these are generally inherited. Will not everything that impairs health and depresses the vital organism favor the natural tendency? We have the law that the “parents eat sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge.” We have no evidence that the persons eating the grapes suffered like the children. We may venture one step farther. Is not this habit the foundation of drunkenness in our land? By an impartial investigation, we not only find diseases produced, but morbid appetites. It is not often that we see a person fond of strong drink that is not a slave to tobacco in some form. In most of our villages and small towns we see boys of seven to ten years of age, chewing and smoking. If we watch their course, the majority of them will be drunkards at twenty-five. Many are of opinion that it is the tasting of intoxicating drinks that makes the drunkard. Close investigation will not sustain this opinion. Many years ago these western counties were studied with small distilleries, and the young men that were raised up about them are among the most temperate in their neighborhood, many of them not tasting a drop.

Occasionally you will meet with one addicted to strong drink. In these instances you generally find that they spent much time in idleness, and used tobacco in some form, and had companions with the same habits. I have neither time nor ability to do justice to this subject, nor in a report of this kind it is expected;

but I wished to notice it merely that the subject may be taken up by those who are able to do justice to one of so much magnitude. It is with regret that a report so unsatisfactory is submitted, but circumstances prevent anything better at this time. It was late in the season when the committee was appointed and unfortunately I had no opportunity of meeting the other members of the committee for the purpose of preparing a report. The work was delayed to the latest period and I have been compelled to report what I am in possession of.

You can see from the foregoing, a *little* of the objects and efforts of the leading medical men in the county of Indiana twenty years ago; satisfied that no one could have attained his perfection, by his own efforts, and that there was still much to learn. And never has there been more rapid advances in medical science than during the last quarter of a century. – Never was the medical profession more industrious or so exact in their views and results than they are at the present day. A number have been faithful to sustain their profession in obedience to the great law of progress and to contribute to its usefulness in the right direction, believing that medical science alone discloses the truth of those mysterious processes and forces, as well as the physical and intellectual constitution of man, both as a creature perfect in structure and attributes and as a moral and physical ruin, and as the result of this skill, to inform the human family as to the best mode of preserving their health in natural perfection, and giving council according to the necessities of society and of controlling disease in all its dangerous forms that threaten the domestic altar.

It would be ungenerous to our predecessors to say, that this is all the fruits of our labors, but acknowledge that much of it is an inheritance transmitted from the industry, wisdom and genius of other days. If a veil could be suspended between the past and present, separating them completely, it would be easy to see where we would stand – darkness would cover us. The sun of science would be overhung with clouds and shadows, and not one star left to guide our labors. We know that knowledge is progressive and marches by slow degrees. Seed sown to-day may not germinate for centuries. It will lie dormant until the proper influences causes it to spring into full vigor and perfection. This great estate is grasped out of the riches of fleeting centuries. With the riches and power of this estate it gives power over the human family, and additional honor to the physician, because he is the protector and friend of the poor and distresses in every rank, and by precept and example raising them up to the level of his own excellency. Take from the physician the motive that should actuate his cause – a desire to benefit his fellow creatures, and you crumble to atoms the foundation of his profession. It is that elevating principle that induces him to risk his own life, if necessary, to save that of his patient. It has been done on the field of battle, to save wounded; it has been done where the most virulent, contagious and malignant diseases were sweeping districts; it has been done in the prosecution of those studies, essential to the performance of the duties of the enlightened physician. Many never think, that in their calling they exhibit virtues that in other positions would crown them with laurels, and draw the admiration of the world. Others, conscious of their good traits, shun admiration and quietly seek the good of their fellow beings.

The whole community looks to medical men for the solution of all dark and difficult problems of a scientific and medical nature. These questions are unlimited in their range, taking in the character of diseases and simulations. The sanitary condition of cities and towns – identify, death, real or apparent, homicide, poisons, the various kinds and how used; business transactions, civil and criminal; the highest interests of individuals, families and societies, frequently rest on medical men, not only of property and life, but that which is equally dear – character and reputation.

“On the fourth day of July, 1876, our worthy *Centennial historian*, (W. A. Taylor,) truthfully described the early settlers of Indiana county,” as follows:

“The early settlers of Indiana county, came from the eastern counties on the state; in a great part from the Cumberland Valley. They were Scotch-Irish descent – the faith Presbyterians. They came with their bibles, their confession of faith, their catechisms and their rifles. They were a brave determined, self-denying race, by no means deficient in education and in love or learning. It is a notable fact, that in spelling, penmanship and accuracy of style and manner, the early records of our townships and county, will compare favorably with those of more recent date.”

“It would be improper not to mention the physicians who practiced their profession with success and distinction. They were something more than physicians to the people – they were their friends and advisers.”

There are two items of unwritten history connected with the experience of our physicians, who were worthy of the name, and observed the lives and conduct of the families in the county from its earliest settlements.

1st. That the families who studied their bibles daily, endeavored to live according to the teaching of that book, faithfully, were the contented and prosperous families, and most generally blessed with good health, and spared to good old age.

2d. That the children, who were trained according to the Divine command, who were well instructed in their duties to their parents and all other persons, most generally became good men and women and were respected and prosperous members of society. On the other hand, the disobedient and disrespectful were soon cast out of good society and their lives soon became burdensome. These items of unwritten history came with more force because some of the observers were not Bible men in a strict sense. From the observations and other facts in our possession, we are safe in affirming, in addition to the Divine promise, that *God's Word* is the best and safest guide and companion to secure long life, health, prosperity and happiness in this world.

This will account in a great degree for the good sound judgment that the people of Indiana county have always maintained on the subject of health and life. When they were sick they wanted a physician, not an imposter. They correctly classed new systems of medicine along with new religions. The intelligent part of the people of Indiana county, to their credit be it said, have always permitted such fools to go on in their folly, and carry out their ignorance, superstition and human depravity.

In looking over the history of physicians who have lived in the county of Indiana from its organizations, we have evidence of high professional ability and of remarkable fidelity in the discharge of their duties, and many of them were esteemed highly by the people, their average ability being much higher than could be found in many of the other counties in the state. At the same time the illiterate, the incompetent and the unworthy could be found bearing the title. This was always so. We know that greatness is not a birthright in any avocation – nor could it be thrust upon the undeserving – a kind of transitory applause may be achieved without merit, but the worthy and deserving are sure to win the prize; that eminence and honorable distinction of the medical profession are the legitimate results of good education and professional knowledge, with high moral character and devotion to duty.

The claims of every one, as far as reliable information could be obtained in the period of three weeks, have been given. My retrospect is finished. I would it were worthier of the object. But in calling the roll we have no answer from Samuel Tamage, George Hays, John Young, Andrew Getty, _____ Reed, Jonathan French, _____ Kirkpatrick, _____ Simmons, _____ Craighead, Frank Young, _____ Gillespie, Samuel Duffield, _____ Vanhorn, P. P. Rich, Samuel F. Devlin, _____ Sterrett, Thomas Moorhead, _____ Gemmill, George Cleis, Samuel McKee, _____ Hammill, Robert K. Scott, _____ Campbell, J. Liggett, David R. Allison, Samuel P. Brown, _____ Powell, J. Hay, Hugh Adair, Wm. G. Stewart, Hugh A. Calvin, T. J. Cantwell, Samuel G. Berryhill, Wm. A. Piatt, Robert McConnoughey, Robert Mitchell, George Goodhart, Edward P. Emerson, Samuel F. Stewart, Samuel M. Ogden, John Gilpin, Robert M. S. Jackson, D. C. Rankin, Ferdinand F. Bingle, John B. Bair, James M. Stewart, Samuel M. Elder, Henry Faulk, Aug H. Gross, Wallace B. Stewart, Samuel W. Virtue, Joseph F. Stewart, George W. Gettys, A. H. Armstrong, James T. Adair, John Buchanon, Andrew Johnston and James Morgan. They are not here; they have passed on; they rejoice on earth no more; “they sleep well after life’s fitful fever.” Let their names be recorded to abide forever. May the sun of centuries to come pour light on their successors, kindling their hearts gratitude and joy for the work they performed to others – who lived because they lived, and who were saved from their sufferings and from the sorrows of death by the interposition of their Divine Art. May the rocks on the neighborhood of their ashes chant their requiem to generations yet unborn; and when the sun is sinking behind the flood of years, may its departing rays gild those names with a new glory, and shining too on others equally illustrious. We know that their examples are not lost on those who have taken their places in this noble county. Their successors are aware that a wide field for scientific investigation lies before them. Much territory still remains to be redeemed; “the wilderness is yet to blossom as the rose,” “and the leaves to be gathered for the healing of the nations.”

The hygienic condition of the county is of such immense interest to our people that the first all-important question before the profession – the prevention of disease, is to be improved. We are to search after the truth, and when found is to be generally applied for the good of mankind. A profession like ours, that is invested with the power of unequalled beneficence; that disdains all mystery, all prestige of authority, and all superstitious veneration for traditional dogmas; that asks for confidence on the sure basis of scientific knowledge, appropriates no discovery to selfish purposes and holds its resources as the gift of Heaven, open to the good of all mankind, and labors to imitate Him who, nearly nineteen centuries ago, healed the infirmities of the multitudes that waited on his ministry of love and wisdom. Such a profession should never falter in giving heed to its own instincts, never waver in strenuous and persistent exertions to

elevate still higher its practical ideas, and never abate those heroic convictions which are at once the proof of its high vocation, the credentials of its claims on public respect and the pledges of its sure success.

The above respectfully submitted.

WM. ANDERSON, M. D.