AN ESSAY ON

Law's, its History & Treatment

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Fifty-eight

By L. J. Howard

Of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Yaws (frambesia).

It may seem strange that I should select for the subject of my thesis a disease unknown in our country, but the fact that a specific treatment for the disease has been discovered by Dr. E. Zin-ward of Cuba, one of our own school, has induced me to present a dissertation on the subject, hoping that it may be acceptable to the faculty, from its novelty, if not from its utility.

The African name Yaws, which signifies a raspberry, is given to a disease, the characteristic symptom of which consists in a crusty eruption or encrustation on the face, which resembles in many respects the fruit named.

Yet if any of the modern work's
on Practice make mention of this disease, and but little seems known of it beyond the Countries in which it is con- 
imnic, it is called by the French Plan or Épire, by the Spanish Plagas, and by the Portuguese Botes.

Craigie in his "Pathological Anatomy," defines it to be a chronic inflammation of the corium, taking an irregular 
debilis form, attended partly with death of a portion of the corial substance - partly with growth of granular 
granules - the result of a peculiar morbid 
process. He also states that in regard 
to this disease much misconception has 
prevailed, which has been owing chiefly 
to the erroneous notions, to which 
its station in the arrangement
of Cullen gave birth. These were first corrected in 1791 by Dr. Jebb, who showed that Cullen is a true cutaneous inflammation, which though more chronic, yet like Small Pox, and other cutaneous eruptions, proceeds in fitful motions, and obeys regular periods of accession, height, and decline.

There is a great resemblance between this disease and the burn of the Scotch, which though a disease affecting not only the skin but the fibrous membrane, causes cutaneous inflammation not dissimilar to that of Cullen. Like most inflammations, depending upon the action of a morbid poison, when it affects the constitution it induces inflammation of the corium in the shape of furuncular tumors, and ulcers.
and of further care; affording the requisite granulating surface.

There is also a more intimate resemblance between these and syphilis when the latter disease first made its appearance in Europe in the 15th Century. We learn from authors of the time, that the characteristic symptoms of this disease consisted in granular fungi on the skin, principally on the face, which were tender from their number, size, and the ichorous and fetid matter they discharged. These fungi terminated in disquamation and frequently horrible ulcerations of the skin. From these symptoms the name "Verruca or Pox" was adopted in France for syphilis. Nothing could more closely resemble this eruption, or occurrence than
The yaws - And they resemble it also in the following symptoms, the emaciation on the face, spread itself by degrees over the whole body producing ulcerations in different parts. It attacks the bones, producing pains eczematous cases, and abundant discharges of purulent matter from the eyes, nose, and ears.

Yaws are invariably preceded by more or less indisposition - languor, pain in the limbs like those of Rheumatism, chilliness or shiverings succeeded by general heat, and uneasiness amounting in most cases to fever, and always more or less severe and distinct in children than in adults.

The first trace of eruption is a white mealy scurf, covering the whole cutaneous surface. After a few days, firm pimpls are seen on the forehead, face and neck, and
around the crust. There increase from 6 to 10 days when their tops become covered by a crust and an opaque whitish fluid. Thus converted into pusules they gradually enlarge, still covered by some and inquisitive crusts, until they attain the size of a sixpence or threepenny, the largest being in general those which appear first. If this crust be removed it exposes a foul sluggish sori, or according to Adams, a rough whitish surface, consisting partly of sloughy putty of living animal matter. The pusule may burst spontaneously and discharge a thick viscid matter, which hardens into a foul paste on the surface. In the large pusules on this surface at length shoots up a red granulated excrescence composed of minute lobes not unlike a wild
rash or mulberry, which is the proper name
and gives the disease its peculiar appearance
and character.

Its size varies according to that of the
fungus from which it rises, from a pea to
a mulberry of considerable dimensions.

Its color varies according to that of the gen-
eral health of the subject. In the robust
and healthy, it is red like a piece of flesh
and prominent; in the weakly and pun-
ny, it is pale and white like a piece of pale-
flower. Not elevated but bleeds at the slightest touch.

The wart fungus has little visibility
and does not smart when Capericum juice
is applied, never suppures perfectly but
discharges a solid glutinous fluid which
dries into a scab around the edges of the
excessence, and come to upper part of
much elevated with white pimpls. This
 glutinous fluid is the proper cause matter
 and communicates the disease by in-
 vaculation,

The time at which the fungus gran-
ulation arise is irregular, Thomson met
it at as early as one month, and as late as
three months, after the first appearance
of the eruption, and concluded its form-
ation cannot be taken as a mark of the
second stage of the disease as was thought
by Adams, in his work on Morbid Process.

Each pustule as it attains a certain
size undergoes the same process, after re-
maining sometime the pustule gradually
contracts diminishes in height; and as
the pustule is finally covered by skin.
It leaves in general no mark except in those places in which the inflammation has been violent, when a scar similar to that of cow-pox, but broader and more superficial is left. This description shows not only that these are an inflammatory disease of the skin, but that they are not strictly speaking an example of tuberculous disease of that membrane, as in the arrangement of Willan they are erroneously represented. The phenomena show they consist in an inflammatory process of the cornea commencing in minute points, and gradually spreading in extent and penetrating with less, till it generates a peculiar morbid product which after undergoing certain changes is at length spontaneously removed and
allows it's pore to heal.

"Thomson justly remarks that the disease is first papular, then pustular, and after wards consists of pew, though the latter is not constant, as the ulcer may heal without this subsance, when it may be accounted pustular."

At no period does it appear to be tubercular for the yarvey growth to which alone the term is applied is rather the effect of the pustules or Chronic corial inflammation modified by the propy-
yarvey action.

"It may in short be inferred that when the yarvey action is sufficient without being excessive it generates the perf- cer fungus growths under which some is either not materially injured or is
regenerated. If the action is too violent, the growth is either destroyed or prevented, from appearing and in either case the colon is separably injured.

The above description of the disease chiefly one of a mild form. It is very prevalent now in the West Indies and South America, chiefly among the negroes, and is endemic to Africa especially in the Gold Coast. It is one of the most disgusting diseases imaginable. The whole body in some cases breaks out in large ulcers, the patient reduced to a mere skeleton, and is incapable of attending to any duty. It is very contagious and the person attacked must be immediately separated from the rest or in a few days it will spread through the
whole of the family. An adult having been attacked with it seldom or ever recovers his health entirely under medical treatment. Owing in doubt to the large quantities of mercury administered, at every change of weather he suffers bone pains. In some cases atrophy of one or more of the members and in others temporary paralysis of upper and lower extremities.

What is peculiar and remarkable about this disease is that a species of inoculation takes place from the bite of small flies, which abound throughout the West Indian Islands (Luba especially), and make their appearance early in the morning and after sunset in numbers.
They communicate the disease to a healthy person after having acted upon one affected with the disease, and thus it spreads rapidly, a whole population or district.

The disease in these cases is only local, and the cure is generally prompt, except when the infection has lasted long enough to produce ulcerative, in which case it acts like the syphilitic virus, becomes absorbed, the system becomes affected, and then it is a constitutional disease.

Another remarkable fact is that the person attacked is never affected a second time, and hence the Negro women are in the habit of inoculating their children with the virus, the disease then makes its appearance in seven
for eight days, in a mild form, passes off and the child is protected for life.

It appears from these observations that the virus of the lye's acts in the same manner as that of syphilis, and other poisons which affect the human body, can be absorbed in the system and remain more or less time latent, manifesting themselves by the following symptoms: great weakness and prostration of spirits, headache, loss of sight, paralysis, dyspepsia, asthma, fleeting pains followed by men or life fever and then by the appearance of the eruption.

The old school treatment consists in anti-syphilatics. Mercury being the principal remedy, the poor patient
are frequently sufficient for life. The old school physicians consider it in almost many cases incurable. While the physicians of one school cure it in every stage provided the patient had not previously been under the old school treatment.

Their treatment scarcely ever mounts to more than palliation or a mere remission of a single disease or disease into another, and rarely arrives at a radical cure unless it acts unconsciously upon the Homoeopathic law.

In no class of disorders is the superiority of the Homoeopathic law "Similia Similibus Curantur" shown than in consumptive diseases. In this disease the old school treatment by internal applications often drives it by metastases to the brain.
and other organs, that either producing
death or harming the patient for life.

With the horrible effects of uterine
abuse in such cases, a volume might
be written, but it is needless to go over
the ground, so ably done by others.

Allopathy by recognizing merely
local diseases and treating them as
consequence of this frequently by local
means alone, rarely arrives at a perm-
manent cure, in such cases but sep-
def other Constitutional diseases
which they find themselves unable
to cure. While the Homoeopath not rec-
ognizing the picture of merely local
diseases, but maintaining that every de-

case with a few trifling exceptions is
an affection of the whole organism.
and that therefore in order to arrive at a speedy and radical cure should be treated by remedial agents acting on the whole frame and not by local means alone. Hence the superiority of the doctrine of the treatment not only in this disease but in all others.

The principal remedies found useful in the treatment of this "disease" are: Thuya. The different preparations of Mercury. Nitric acid. &c.

Dr. J. E. Leonard of Cuba, to whom I am indebted for the treatment and who has met with the greatest success, mentions that he found in every instance in which Thuya was used from the commencement of the attack, he never failed to cure the case, it is
indicated by the following symptoms
viz. When the eruption commences
with itching, burning and pricking in
the parts affected, with exsiccations on
the face, hands and body; first dry then
swell and suppuring; red gravida
ations which discharge thick viscid mat
ter, and which hardens on the surface.
the exsiccations bleed easily, and to the
slightest touch. Painful feeling in
the articuler extremities of long time
aggravated by the least motion, accom
panied by inflammation of the
effected spot, and drawing and tension
in the limbs and joints.

Mercury runs red: in second stage.
when the eruptive or granulations
enlarge and present a foul and
flabby case and discharge a black viscid matter. The expression is pale and prominent, and blinks easily. When the micturition occurs it is likely to spread over a large surface. Fingernails over the whole body; thinness of the limbs, weakness, and giving way of the knees, restlessness, towards evening, and pain become intolerable in bed at night.

Nitric Acid is indicated, if the patient has been under Old School treatment, and also in 8th stage. For pains in all the bones, when symptoms are worse towards evening, for drawing pains especially, Phosphorus &c.

Cinnaemia, also in second stage has been found efficacious in relieving the bone pains, and where the patient...
fails, drowsy, and unable to think, is dull, satiated, when Mercurius fails, and cures fail.

For the usual sympathetic symptoms arising from the disease, according to the organ or organs affected, to wit other remedies be indicated, but it is unnecessary to mention them.

Louise A. Howard

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