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## For the Inquirer and Chronicle. EPIDEMIC DYSENTERY.

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(Continued from last week.)

It slightly reddens bitumens and unites with alkalis, from which I have inferred the presence of a peculiar acid which I call choloid acid. This acid I conceive to be developed by a species of putrefaction that takes place in the morbid bilious contents of the duodenum and jejunum. From the premises I draw the conclusion that the true seat of the disease is not in the colon and rectum, as stated by authors, but that the superior portion of the small intestines is the part primarily involved, and the irritation, inflammation, &c., of the lower bowels is the result of this primary condition. It is quite reasonable that the spasmodic action of the lower portion of the alvine canal, excited by the presence of the morbid materials, in connection with the constant passage of the irritating discharges over the delicate lining membrane, should give rise to the inflammatory symptoms. These then, are a sequence of, and not the true disease. The erroneous theory of our Allopathic friends, that "fever and inflammation is disease," leads them in this, as well as in many other of the forms of disease, to apply their remedies to counteract the effects of the disease, instead of to the removal of its cause. In dysentery we find them devoting all their attention to these inflammatory symptoms, while the true seat of the malady is entirely overlooked; and these very learned fellows too, lay claim to all the knowledge that the Goddesses, Minerva and Hygea vouchsafe to mortals. In the treatment of this, as well as all our epidemics, it is of primary importance that we do not overlook the prophylactic.

The inception of this disease may in a great many instances be altogether prevented by proper attention to diet, regularity of habit and avoiding exposure to the sun in the heat of the day. For this purpose I would prescribe altogether, rich animal diet and especially swine's flesh. Such articles require for their digestion a large amount of the normal product of the organs or viscera that are connected with digestion, and in consequence of the continued exertion thereby produced, their function is depressed and a predisposition favorable to the attack is induced.

To those who desire to escape (and who does not) when the epidemic is raging in the vicinity, a mild farinaceous and ripe fruit diet is imperative. Ripe fruit in its season operates as a preventive to most of the enteric affections, and especially so to dysentery. It gently opens the bowels, and removes any excess of the bilious secretions that may be excited by the increased atmospheric temperature. It seems to be one of the wise provisions of nature, that fruit shall ripen at the commencement of the hot season, when it is so well adapted to the wants of man both for food and medicine. Some precaution however is necessary in using it. Nature's laws are not in any manner to be violated with impunity, and even with this wholesome food of nature's own preparing, the stomach must not be overloaded, or you couple it to do an undue amount of labor, which will result injuriously. Let the indigestible portions, such as the seed, skin, &c., be removed, and use it as medicine in the place of animal food, and it will prove to be one of the most perfect prophylactics that we possess. If the views herein advanced in relation to the pathology of the disease are correct, the curative indications are readily inferred.

First, to remove the accumulated bilious material from the superior portion of the intestinal canal, and second, to restore the debilitated tissue and the functions of the organs. To fulfil the first indications in the curative process, it is indispensably necessary that catharsis should be speedily induced, and in many cases this becomes a matter of considerable difficulty in consequence of the great irritability of the stomach, which renders it almost impossible to secure the retention of a sufficient quantity of medicine to effect the desired result. Nevertheless the object must be kept steadily in view, and all the skill of the physician brought to bear against the difficulty. For the irritability I have frequently resorted to opium, and I must say generally without benefit, and in some instances they have really added to, instead of lessened the difficulty. The reason of this I conceive is to be found in the fact that the cause of the disease is not to be found in the stomach itself, but in the superior portion of the small intestines, which there sympathetically affect the stomach, and produce the irritability, and this class of agents does not reach it. When free catharsis is produced, the bilious accumulation begins

to pass freely from the bowels, this symptom usually subsides. Until this effect, then, can be produced, the nausea and vomiting must be combated by counter-irritants, such as the mustard plaster, or flannel cloths, wrung out of hot brandy, or hot fomentations. At the same time some certain purgatives must be administered, and their action facilitated by all the means at command. For this purpose I know of no more efficient remedy than our common anti-bilious purge, and if one dose is rejected or fails to operate, another must be administered, and its operation arrested by copious injections of tepid water, until you succeed in your efforts, and establish free catharsis. I do not wish to be understood that this is the best plan of treatment for all the forms of the disease, but bear in mind that I am treating of the malignant epidemic. The Podophyllum may be administered in 20 grs. every two hours until free catharsis is induced. In the severe form of the disease under consideration, there seems to be an effort on the part of the intestines to relieve themselves of some morbid, irritating matter, and hence the powerful spasmodic contractions which produce the intolerable pain with which the disease is accompanied. When free catharsis is once induced, these natural efforts tend to maintain it, and the more powerful cathartics may be omitted and their place supplied with milder remedies of the same nature, such as the syrup of rhuibarb and magnesia; but at this point in the treatment the *Septandria* is the best adapted remedy ever discovered, and it may be combined with tonics and stimulants as indicated. This effect must be kept up until the morbid accumulation is removed, and during the whole time the nausea and debility must be combated with their appropriate remedies. As the cause of the disease is thus removed, and the hepatic congestion as a part thereof, subsides, the function of the organs implicated will be left greatly impaired and in a debilitated condition. After the most urgent symptoms are relieved, this condition of the organs will require increasing attention. The patient's diet must be carefully selected, or cholera morbus, colic, and affections of a kindred nature will not only be a constant source of trouble to both patient and physician, but they may suddenly overthrow all the brilliant prospects of a recovery that you have so long labored to bring about. To restore the functions of the liver the following I have found to be unequalled by any other remedy or combination of remedies that I have ever met with. The following is the formula:

Hydrastine, grs. XX.  
Leptandrin, grs. X.  
Podophyllum, ℥jss.  
Sach Lactis, drachm. j.

M. and triturate well together in a mortar and divide into 20 powders, one of which may be given every two hours. This not only acts as an efficient hepatic stimulant, but also as a tonic to the enfeebled mucous membrane. Enemata are of great benefit in the treatment, and in the first stage I prefer the simple cold water to any other. This should be administered in large quantities with the view of distending the bowels and thus facilitating the evacuation of their morbid contents. In the sanguineous stage the common injection of Dr. Beach is very useful, and in the ulcerative or declining stage, turpentine in mucilage of gum arabic is appropriate. If large injections cannot be retained, a small quantity of cold water will have a soothing effect upon the highly irritated mucous membrane. Iced water is a very refreshing drink for the patient, and I have usually found it beneficial. In the early stages the wet sheet pack and the cold sitz bath may also be used, with great benefit. These seem to allay the irritability and soothe the excited patient. Although in the early stage of the disease astringents are not admissible in the declining stage to assist in strengthening the mucous surface they are very useful. The following formula has proved efficacious for this purpose:

R. Hydrastine,  
Myrrhine, a. grs. X.  
Myrrh, pulv. grs. XX.  
Sach Lactis, drachm. j.

M. Ft. in chartulus decem dividendus, one of which may be administered every two hours.

This course of treatment judiciously applied, will in a great majority of cases prove successful in removing the cause of the disease which may be known by the alteration in the pathogenomic alvine evacuations, which, as heretofore indicated, gradually change from the bilious or sanguine to a grayish membranous discharge, consisting either of detached full membrane, or the natural intestinal mucus epithelium which is removed. As the disease declines, the skin assumes its natural state, the coating

leaves the tongue, which is of a shining red color, and all the febrile symptoms disappear. In the sporadic variety of dysentery the syrup of rhuibarb and potash administered in table spoonful doses until it produces an apparent effect is sufficient medicinal treatment, and with a proper attention to diet, will almost invariably effect a cure.

## A MODERN DICTIONARY.

Author—A dealer in words who gets paid in his own coin.

Bargain—A ludicrous transaction, in which each party thinks he has cheated the other.

Bulle—A beautiful but useless insect without wings, whose colors fade on being removed from the sunshine.

Critic—A large dog, that goes unchained, and barks at everything he does not comprehend.

Distant relations—People who imagine they have a claim to rob you if you are rich, and to insult you if you are poor.

Doctor—A man who kills you to-day to save you from dying to-morrow.

Editor—A poor fellow who every day is emptying his brain in order that he may fill his stomach.

Four—The shadow of hope.

Friend—A person who will not assist you, because he knows your love will excuse him.

Grave—An ugly hole in the ground, which lovers and poets wish they were in, but take uncommon pains to keep out of.

Heart—A rare article, sometimes found in human beings. It is soon, however, destroyed by commerce with the world, or else becomes fatal to its possessor.

Honor—Shooting a friend whom you love through the head, in order to gain the praise of a few others who you despise.

Honourific—An ancient art, said to have been fashionable among girls and wives; now entirely out of use, or practised only by the lower orders.

Lawyer—A learned gentleman, who rescues your estate from your enemy and keeps it himself.

Love—A little sighing, a little crying, a great deal of lying, and a little dying.

Modesty—A beautiful flower, that flourishes only in secret places.

My dear—An expression said to be used by man and wife at the commencement of a quarrel.

Politician—A man employed by the corporation to sleep in engine houses at three dollars a night.

Political Honesty—Previous Lexicographers have not noticed this word, treating it, we presume, altogether as fabulous; for definition see *self-interest*.

Public Abuse—The mud with which every traveler is bespattered on his road to distinction.

Rural Felicity—Potatoes, turnips and cabbages.

Sensibility—A quality by which the possessor in attempting to promote the happiness of other people, loses his own.

State's Evidence—A wretch who is pardoned for being baser than his comrades.

Tongue—A little horse that is continually running away.

Wealth—The most respectable quality of man.

**CALIFORNIA AND OREGON.**—By the arrival at New York of the steamship Northern Light, we have intelligence from California, Central America, and the Pacific coasts, fifteen days later than previous advices. Two million dollars in gold is on the way thither from California. In Nicaragua the contending parties had patched up terms of peace. Walker had declined the Presidency, which had been conferred on General Bisas. Parker H. French, one of our American Filibusters, had been appointed Commissary of War. The people of Nicaragua are said to be pleased with this state of things. Walker is reported to intend attempting to expel Kinney from the country.

Five hundred men have left California to join Walker. On board of the steamship Sierra Nevada, on her trip from San Juan to San Francisco, 45 passengers died of cholera. In Oregon, Major Haller and his forces were surrounded near the Dalles, by hostile Indians, forty-eight hours without food or water. Lieut. Day and 150 men were sent to his relief. The U. S. Steamship John Hancock, at San Francisco from Petropaulowki, brings news that the Russians were at Anoor in great force, both on sea and land, and anxious to meet the allied fleet, which was probably in the Gulf of Tartary. Off Elizabeth Island, the British steamer *Barcoot* captured a Bre-men brig having on board 140 Russian officers and soldiers. The Indians on Logue river, Oregon, having assasinated fifty whites, were pursued and overtaken by a body of troops under Major Fitzgerald, who, in battle, killed thirty of the savages. Ten of the troops were killed.

## Cor. of the Pittsburg Commercial Journal. Huntingdon and Broadtop Railroad.

Opening of the Huntingdon and Broadtop Railroad—The Excursion—The Block Diamonds—Future prospects of the road region, &c., &c.

Stonerstown, Bedford Co., Pa., Nov. 5, 1855.

Here we are, away up among the mountains of Bedford and Huntingdon counties in acceptance of an invitation to attend the opening of the Huntingdon and Broadtop Railroad to this place; for at last the dream of the "enthusiasts" and "visionaries" about a railroad through this region has been realized. A few minutes after eight A. M. yesterday the excursion train started from Huntingdon to Broadtop, with a large number of invited guests, and in an hour and twenty minutes arrived at Stonerstown, a distance of twenty-four miles. The road was pronounced by the many competent judges present to be a most excellent one. There is a slightly descending grade the entire way from Stonerstown to Huntingdon, which will be of great importance to the immense coal trade which is destined to be carried on in this region. The road for five continuous miles is air line, a greater length of air line track than can be found on any road in Pennsylvania.

The railroad bridge which spans the Juniata at Stonerstown is a magnificent structure. It is nearly seven hundred yards in length, resting on six immense stone piers. It will be finished in a week or two, and will be one of the finest railroad bridges in the State. Messrs. Patton and Gessler are the contractors.

At Stonerstown the party remained a short time to admire the rugged mountain scenery, which everywhere surrounds the town. Here we were handsomely entertained by Messrs. Patton & Gessler. Among the guests were E. Edgar Thompson, Esq., Pres't Pa. R. R. and lady, Herman J. Janbaert, Esq., Superintendent; E. Smith Esq. Secretary, Wm. Neal, Esq. Director, Phila. Wm. G. Alexander Esq., President Phila. & Trenton R. R., J. S. Craft, Esq. President Pittsburgh & Steubenville R. R., R. R. Rundle Smith, Esq., Pres't Union Canal Co., Jas. Worrall, Esq., Lebanon, Isaac G. McKinley, Esq., Harrisburg, Jas. M. Bell Esq., Hollidaysburg, John Scott and R. Bruce Petrikin, Esq., Huntingdon, and many other gentlemen connected with public improvements throughout the State. Carriages and horses were in readiness to convey the party to the Mountain House, a distance of eight miles, the terminus of the excursion, were received by a large number of gentlemen who had preceded them.

Here we met Messrs. Jno McCharles, Henry D. Moore, H. K. Strong, Cust. English of Philadelphia, A. King, W. P. Schell, W. T. Daugherty and a number of other gentlemen interested in the coal lands from Bedford and Huntingdon. Among them will be observed the names of a considerable sprinkling of Ex-members of the Legislature, who, while they were zealously watching the interests of the dear people, were not altogether unmindful of their own.

FROM CALIFORNIA.  
NEW YORK, Nov. 5.—The Steamship Star of the West, from San Juan, reached her wharf on Saturday evening. She brings 300 passengers and \$272,651 in gold, with dates from San Francisco to the 5th ult., which were before received by the George Law.

The Star of the West connected with the Steamship Uncle Sam. Her passengers were detained nine days on the Isthmus in consequence of the existing political trouble.

Don Finta Mayorg, late Secretary of State, has been detected in his correspondence with the enemy outside of the city, and was shot at Grenada on the 21st.

Col. Walker, having been reinforced by a small party of Californians, on the 12th ult. embarked at Virgin Bay on board the Steamer Virgin, and before day light the next morning landed within 40 miles of Grenada. After a rapid advance the little army reached the city and manned the Plaza without encountering any serious resistance, when a sharp contest ensued, which resulted in a loss to the enemy of 15 killed and several wounded, and Gen. Walker took possession of the Capital of Nicaragua; subsequently the fort was captured by a detachment of Americans.

On the 19th, Col. Fry and Parker H. French, with 60 men, embarked on board the Virgin, which also carried the passengers and specie from California, with the intention of capturing San Carlos. The occupants of the fort however, fired upon the steamer with cannon, and the expedition was abandoned, Col. Fry being unwilling to risk the lives of the passengers.

Order having been restored, the citizens of Grenada held a public meeting, and tendered General Walker the Presidency of the

Republic, which honor he declined in favor of Gen. Corral.

Col. Wheeler, our Minister to Central America, after much sollicitation proceeded to Rivas with a proposition of peace. Arriving at Rivas, and learning that Gen. Corral was absent, Col. Wheeler attempted to return, but was prevented by the Governor and detained two days; nor was he released until the town was threatened with an attack. This breach of faith on the part of Corral's forces, led to a spy correspondence between our Minister and the General. On the 22d Corral surrendered: a treaty of peace was formed, and thus Walker's victory became complete. During the progress of these events others of importance were transpiring.

On the 22d the steamer conveying the outward bound passengers, by the Star of the West, was fired upon from the fort, a 52lb. shot struck the boat, killing a lady and child and seriously injuring the machinery. Previous to this, an attack was made on the returning government forces, when five persons were killed, viz: John Boyd of Wayne Co. Indians, Wm. Dubois of Susquehanna Co. Pa., H. S. Bonaparte of Iowa, Wm. Howard of Lexington, Mo., and Henry B. Davis of Vernon, Ohio. Their bodies were plundered of several thousand dollars. Among the wounded were Michael Ponconant ofiffin, Ohio, Cornelius Ross, of Booneville, Mo., and J. O. Kenndick of Cincinnati; 25 passengers fled into the woods when the attack was made, and had not been heard from when the steamer sailed.

## From the London Times, Oct. 25. AMERICAN FILIBUSTER RING.

The English government is omitting no opportunity of reinforcing the West India squadron, and thus imposing a powerful fleet between this country and the North American Continent. This proceeding will, we doubt not, call forth from a large portion of the American press that species of wild and temperate comment in which they delight whenever the conduct of England is in question, and a little political capital is to be manufactured by making her the object of invective and depreciation. We shall be told no doubt of the fiendish hatred of England to Republican America, and of the insolent menace behind which she veils her incursions and treacherous designs. Without the slightest wish to reflect in any way on the press which allows itself to be under the vehicle of such statements, or upon the constituencies whose votes are found to be influenced by such columns, we wish to point out to the good sense and moderation of the American people the causes which have led us, even in time of war, to increase our squadron in their seas, and may possibly lead us still farther in a direction, the first steps toward which we are now most unwillingly taking.

We entertain, then, the American public to believe, notwithstanding the assertions to the contrary with which they are so assiduously plied, that there is no party or body of men in this country that regards them with any other feeling than that of the utmost goodwill, or would wish for them any other fate than the enjoyment of the utmost public freedom which is consistent with the utmost private liberty and securities. We have neither the wish nor the right to intrude our opinion on that form of government which has been established in the United States, but we have, and we claim the right, to take every responsible precaution against that spirit of unbridled license which the present government of the United States seem inclined to tolerate. At this moment North America is in profound peace with the whole world, yet it is not less true that in her ports are fitting out at this moment practical filibustering expeditions, destined to carry war and bloodshed into the dominions of an unoffending neighbor. These expeditions do not receive the sanction of the American government, are not equipped by its funds and will not be conducted by its officers; but their preparation is nevertheless well known to the President and his administration, and received no check from that quarter. This toleration, we are willing to suppose, proceeds from weakness merely, and would be exchanged for vigorous action, only that the power to act is utterly wanting. The American people are so free that they will not be controlled by a government of their own creating; and though laudably eager for the preservation of their own dignity and the assertion of their own rights, cannot bring themselves to tolerate an Executive sufficiently strong to compel respect for the rights of foreign nations. It is because we see "no hope" of finding in the United States a Government capable of preventing its citizens from waging private war on their own account against the best friends and allies of the great republic that we are most unwillingly compelled, even in

the midst of the great European struggle in which we are engaged, to assume a defensive attitude, in order to trample out the first sparks of this fire and prevent a conflagration which, if once allowed to spread, may cause incalculable misery to the human race. It is the misfortune of the American people that she contains within her borders so many desperate and lawless men; it is still more her misfortune that she does not possess an organization sufficiently powerful to crush these criminal attempts. That which she cannot do we are compelled, at least so far as the lawless enterprises directed against ourselves go, to do for her. We cannot wait patiently till these lawless emissaries of insurrection and plunder have set their feet within her Majesty's dominions, and encountered there the assistance which is sure to overwhelm their wild and desperate schemes. We cannot wait till we are placed in the terrible dilemma of either sparing men to whom clemency is cruelty to the human race of which they are the enemies, or of inflicting a just punishment, which may be the means of inflaming against us the passions of the American people and leading to a disastrous and fratricidal war. We will if it be possible, prevent the crime that otherwise it would be our duty most severely to punish, and this we do in the name and in the hope of peace. We cannot believe that those who are now engaged in enrolling unhappy men for these desperate and criminal enterprises really contemplate the success of a descent upon Ireland, for instance, as probable, or even possible. All they can hope is that the miserable fate of that wretched island may be the means of inflaming the public mind against England, and stirring up the passions of the people to a point which might render war inevitable. This consummation it is the duty of the American Government, if it can, to prevent, and as it cannot of the Government against which such attempts are aimed by all means to avert. If we can prevent these expeditions from sailing, or intercept in mid ocean, we shall have done much toward averting the danger that must arise should they be carried out to their natural development. This course of action we have adopted is bold; but for that very reason we believe it to be prudent and safe.

We are fully aware of the advantage that such a proceeding gives to those ever active emissaries of discord, who are incessantly employed in every State of the Union in stirring up the feelings of the populace against this country. That which is a mere measure of self-defense against lawless force they will represent as an insult offered to the lawful Government of the country; they will declaim, they will distort, they will exaggerate, but we must not omit to prepare against real dangers because our preparations may be honestly misunderstood or designedly misrepresented. England has every wish and every interest to remain at peace with America. The immense trade which we carry on with her, the community of language, of blood, the absence of any ground of dispute or subject of rivalry, all plead forcibly in the same direction. How strange that, under such circumstances, we should be driven to arms merely because it is the will of a portion of the sovereign people to make war upon us, unsupported and unapproved, but also neither prevented nor arrested by the Government! We desire about all things a continuance of peace; but if it be the determination of any large portion of the people of the United States to force war upon us, we shall know how to meet it and repel it, without relaxing for an instant our grip on the throat of the roiling and tottering giant of the north.

But is it for the credit of those free institutions so often vaunted as all that is wise, perfect and liberal on the face of the earth, that a friendly and kindred nation, ardently desiring peace, should feel itself compelled to stand on the defensive, not because it has any serious dispute with the Government of this free and happy community, but because that Government is unwilling or unable to prevent its citizens from going forth to murder and to plunder in the dominions of an unoffending ally? Are these the garlands with which the tree of freedom ought to be adorned—are these the laurels with which the temples of the goddess should be bound? England has some claim to be called the nursing mother of freedom; and her citizens are free because they know how to obey—how to subordinate their individual wills to that law the supremacy of which constitutes the principle distinction of a civilized community.

A female school teacher, in her advertisement, stated that she was complete mistress of her own tongue. "If that's the case," said a crusty old teacher, "she can't get too much for her services."