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Abrupt Onset in Typhoid Fever.

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AND

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THOUGH it must be recognized, as Liebermeister taught, that there is no single symptom which may be regarded as pathognomonic of typhoid fever, the diagnosis of this disease rarely causes great difficulty after the expiration of the first several days. At the onset, however, it is extremely difficult to determine positively whether the attack is one of typhoid fever or some other infectious or inflammatory disease. It is universally taught and is a fact that the invasion in the majority of cases is insidious; but we have met with so many instances of abrupt onset, in the last few years, that it has seemed wise to present the notes of a few of these and to call attention to this mode of invasion. In several cases we have permitted ourselves to be too sanguine regarding the nature of the case under observation, and have for a time been misled. Authorities for the most part, though stating that the onset is usually insidious, do not specifically call