

TYPHOID FEVER—ITS TREATMENT IN RURAL DISTRICTS

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The season approaches when Typhoid is the chief disease to occupy the attention of physicians. Every medical man has his own ideas and methods of treating this disease.

A great deal has been written in the journals as to the cause of typhoid, and all are agreed on the point that the typhoid bacillus must be ingested either through fluids such as milk and water or solid matter. Personally, I believe that the disease is chiefly borne by flies—especially in country points—and that it cannot develop spontaneously but must have arisen from some previous case. In two of the epidemics that have occurred in my district the disease was undoubtedly carried by flies.

When I first commenced to practise some years ago, antipyretic treatment was in vogue, and is to a large extent still kept up. The antipyretic treatment may be all right when one has the opportunity of seeing one's cases frequently, as in towns and cities; but in the country it is, to my idea, decidedly dangerous on account of the depressant action of antipyretics as a whole. Further, under antipyretic treatment there appears to be a greater liability to complications, relapses and hemorrhages on account of the above reasons, as well as the general lack of satisfactory nursing (which I think is the chief treatment in typhoid). Owing to the distances I had to travel in the course of my practice, I had to alter my former lines of treatment and substitute my present method, which has proved, I am glad to say, very satisfactory, especially when I can state that for some years back, ever since I adopted my present method, I have had no relapses, no complications and no deaths. Of course, where it is possible to obtain the assistance of a trained nurse, the treatment will be still more satisfactory.