

with excitation of the nerve centers. Found more especially among children. The indications are to allay irritation and divert the blood from the stomach and bowels. 2. The pinched and shrunken tongue indicates atony of the digestive organs, often found in dyspepsia, etc. Treatment is plain. 3. The coating (saborra) or fur should be well studied. It may be greater or less in thickness, dry or moist, or clammy, more accumulated at the posterior portion. The liver is said to be at fault when the tongue is heavily coated at the base, with a yellow coat. This is not always the case. White-coated tongue has been observed in jaundice, etc. 4. The dry tongue has a very important significance. When we have patients who are suffering from some form of fever, pneumonia or other acute disease, with such a tongue, they are in danger, and require close attention. In such cases nutrition and assimilation are suspended, and food cannot be assimilated. When given it should be in fluid form, and always above the temperature of 100 degrees, and of a character nutritive and digestible. The digestive organs can do but little work, yet proper food, given at intervals, does good; but these organs need all the rest they can get until the disease has subsided. Dryness of the tongue is also associated with vascular excitement, and particularly with excitation of the ganglionic nerve centers. Hence the arrest of secretion and this dryness. Here we readily read the state of the nervous system. In many cases the sympathetic nerve is not only excited and irritated, but there is involuntary contraction of muscular tissue, thus suspending the secretions of the several organs. The indications are, proper sedatives for the vascular excitement, and diaphoretics for contractions or excitement of the nerves, associated with other treatment. By this course we shall soon see our patient with a moist tongue, and some of the secretions re-established. 5. Often the tongue changes in the disease from the dryness above referred to, to a brown or black color, with sordes about the teeth. The common idea is that the system is in a typhoid condition. This is true, yet it undoubtedly means, also, that the blood is in a septic condition—a very important fact for us to know. Then our best antiseptics should be given with stimulants and tonics. Thus we can readily read, from the appearance of the tongue, the condition of the digestive organs, the functions of nutrition and assimilation, the condition of the nervous system and the state of the blood. Of course, we must take all other symptoms into consideration. Yet the appearance of the tongue, as pointed, seldom fails in giving us, at a glance, valuable information as to the true condition of the system.