

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

MALARIA.

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MALARIA is a specific infectious disease caused by the plasmodium amalaria characterized in its common forms by periodic paroxysms, consisting of chill, fever and sweating stages, and by its response to quinine.

As I have not access to a reference library, that part of my paper covering the purely scientific side of the subject, you will not find very exhaustive. For the clinical aspect of the subject I have drawn from a series of about 3,000 cases of malaria fever that have come under my care, while practicing in the southeastern part of the State of Kansas.

Historically the disease is one of the most ancient known to medical men. Hippocrates, the father of medicine, divided malaria into Quotidian and Tertian and Celsus distinguished the pernicious forms. There is evidence, which all but proves that the ancient Egyptians were familiar with the disease.

Morton, 1692, was the first to associate the disease with conditions arising from low lands and swampy districts. In 1880 Laveran, while stationed in Algeria discovered the specific parasite in the blood, but it remained for Ross in 1897 to demonstrate the means of transmission of the parasite, namely, by the mosquito. His observations were soon confirmed by Grassi and others, and we then had full proof of the method of transmission of the disease.

Laveran described three forms of the parasite, which later investigators have classed as, the crescentic form of the Estivo Autumnal, the flagellated form of the same parasite, the third being degenerate forms of the preceding. Richard in 1882 described the inter-corpuscular hyaline parasite and the segmenting bodies. It remained for Golgi, in 1885 and 1886, to describe the specific forms of the parasite found in Quartan and Tertian Ague. He also first proved that the malarial paroxysm coincided with the segmentation and sporulation of the parasite.

When segmentation occurs every 48 hours we have Tertian Ague; when it occurs every 72 hours we have the Quartan form.

The Malaria parasites are classified as Sporozoa belonging to the subclass Haemo-sporidia. There are three varieties, the Tertian, Quartan and Aestivo-autumnal, the last class being sub-divided into quotidian and Tertian.

The life history of the parasite is somewhat complicated, as we have man, the mosquito and the parasite involved, and of the three varieties of