

materials were in the circulation, necessarily carry some of the toxine with it.

A further defence is found in the resistance and aggressive action of the tissue cells themselves. Indeed, in cases that recover, the bacilli in the body must be destroyed in this way, excepting, of course, those that escape by the urine. Just here it may be noticed that the aggressive and defensive action of the tissues is in inverse ratio to the extent of the toxæmia.

The plan of treatment which I in 1893 brought forward as the eliminative and antiseptic treatment of typhoid consisted in the administration of frequent doses of purgative medicines, the exhibition of purgatives being continued daily throughout the entire disease.

With the employment of purgatives was associated the use of anti-septics, chiefly salol. To compensate for the withdrawal of so much fluid from the body by so frequent purgation, as well as to dilute and also facilitate elimination of poison, the ingestion of large quantities of water was enjoined. The purpose of giving purgatives is :

1. To interrupt the process of infection, that is, by sweeping out the intestines to clear away bacilli specific and non-specific, and also toxines which would otherwise go to increase the number of bacilli in the body and to increase the existing toxæmia.

2. To counteract at frequent periods the continuous augmentation of toxines in the body by carrying away the toxic bile poured out into the intestine, which if not carried out is again taken up and returned to the system.

3. To further deplete the volume of toxine by causing a free secretion into the intestine, bringing with it poison.

4. The constant clearing of the intestine must lessen the extent of the local lesion because it cuts off the base of supply from which bacilli and toxines are carried to Peyer's Patches to reinforce the bacilli and toxines already in possession.

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It is stated in the *Maryland Medical and Surgical Journal* that a well-known surgeon of Baltimore, as a protection against law suits, keeps a book in which he has printed a form which all patients must sign before submitting themselves to an operation while under his care. In the case of a married woman the operation is explained to herself and her husband and both sign the release, and, in case of the absence of a husband, the nearest responsible male relative witnesses the signature of the woman.