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CASES OF FEVER RANGING BETWEEN BILIOUS AND TYPHOID FEVER.*

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GENTLEMEN :—At the meeting of this Association, which was held in Clinton, in July last, I was appointed to read a paper at the next meeting, but business prevented me from attending, and therefore I have now to read the paper which I should have then read. Those who attended that meeting will no doubt remember that one of our members, Dr. Holmes, introduced the matter, to which this paper more immediately refers, and a discussion arose as to the nature and type of several cases, of which he gave a short history, as to whether they came strictly under the head of Typhoid Fever, or not, and as the time at our disposal was too short, to discuss these cases thoroughly, it was thought better to postpone it until our next meeting, and this, gentlemen is the origin of the present paper.

From these few preliminary remarks you may infer that I do not intend to enter fully into the history of Typhoid fever, or to dilate on it, in all its various forms, for that would take up too much time, and instead of furnishing matter for one paper it would form the contents of many papers; therefore I only propose to consider a few such cases as my friend Dr. Holmes referred to, and in doing so I proceed to give a very brief synopsis of these cases which I attended during the past year, as I think they were almost similar to those spoken of by Dr. Holmes.

Case 1. On the 24th of July 1877, I was called to visit D. S. æt. 26. On enquiring into the history of the case I was told that he had been ill about ten days, that he had received a severe wet-

ting while working in the hay-field, and shortly after was taken with chills, pain in the head, back and legs. When I saw him he had a high fever, tongue swollen, red, dry and crusted, bowels constipated, pulse 90, and temperature $102\frac{1}{2}$; there was also pain in the right iliac region, with slight tympanites. I gave him a purgative of pul. Jalapa hydrg. submur. and podophylli, and left him a solution of potass. bromid. grs. xi. to the dose, to be taken every four hours, and sulph. quinine in good doses, to be taken at any time if there should be any remission of the fever. Next day I found that the purgative had acted twice, but not as well as I would have expected; the stools were of a brownish green color, and very offensive, pulse 90, temperature 102, and all the other symptoms nearly the same as on the previous day. He complained greatly of a severe pain in the head, and sleeplessness. I ordered the mixture to be continued, and gave sulphite of magnesia in 15 grain doses alternately with the solution. As the fever did not remit, no quinine was given. After that I saw him daily, and observed very little change in the symptoms until the 3rd of August, when the pain in the bowels increased and there was also difficulty in passing urine. I then administered a dose of castor oil and laudanum which acted freely and brought away a large quantity of fecal matter mixed with blood; after that he began to improve slowly, and on the 12th of August he was able to sit up a little, but still continued weak for a length of time. During the whole course of the fever the pulse never exceeded 100, nor the temperature $102\frac{1}{2}$, and there was really nothing to be alarmed at, although there was great weakness and prostration.

Case 2. E. R., æt. 10. Lived in the next house to the preceding case. Was called to see him on the 3rd of August, he had been complaining for two or three days; was taken with chills, vomiting, pain in the head and back, etc. When I saw him he had a high fever, tongue soft, red at the edges and white in the centre, pain in the bowels, constipation, with slight tympanitis, pulse 110, and temperature 102. This case continued to exhibit the same symptoms, with very little variation, until the 14th, when an eruption of small reddish spots broke out over the bowels and chest, there was also slight delirium, worse at night, with diarrhoea and bloody discharges, which continued for two or three days and then gradually subsided, under treatment.

* A paper read before the County of Huron Medical Association at Wingham, January 1878.