

that Eberth's bacillus is not the only source of poisoning to which the system is subjected, and while it may be hidden in the interior of glands and tissues other germs are flourishing on the intestinal mucous membrane and furnishing products which are being absorbed and causing a large share of the systemic disturbance. Again, while it has been generally held that Eberth's bacillus is only formed after ulceration takes place, advocates of this treatment claim that it may be found during the early days of the fever if properly searched for. The antiseptics are given to destroy these germs, or failing that render them sterile. Purgatives are given to clear the bowel of its poisonous contents and are repeated to keep it clear.

It may be well before considering this form of treatment further to look for a while at some of the antiseptics and purgatives used in these cases. Calomel has been more generally used than any other. Its claims are that it acts on the whole canal as a purgative and disinfectant. Brunton points out that where medicines act strongly on the intestine their action is slight on the liver, but some of the calomel is changed to a bichloride in the stomach and this acts strongly as an hepatic stimulant, so in the calomel purge we have the purgative, antiseptic and hepatic stimulant combined. Calomel, moreover, if deposited in an intestinal ulcer, makes a good local application. Calomel prevents the formation of indol and skatol substances formed by the decomposition of proteids but does not interfere with the normal products leucin and tyrocin (Brunton). It does not diminish the power of the pancreatic juice. It greatly retards decomposition due to low organisms. Podophyllin is used by some because of its action on the liver as well as its purgative action but it is drastic, irritating the mucous membrane of the intestine and increasing peristalsis. The dose should be small and repeated. It is claimed by some to lower the temperature 1° or 2° in fever.

Salines are well adapted for these cases, as they act on the whole bowel and carry away the vitiated bile and poisonous matters rapidly. They are specially useful from their power of lessening intestinal absorption. During their use, however, care must be taken not to put an excessive drain on the system and water must be allowed freely to supply the place of that withdrawn by the purgative. Those medicines and combinations in pills and otherwise that purge by their irritant action or by markedly stimulating peristalsis would be better avoided as an action of that kind is apt to be injurious where there is much ulceration. A disinfectant for the intestinal canal should be as insoluble as is compatible with efficiency so that it may pass far enough down the digestive tract to do its work before it is either