

A TEXT-BOOK ON THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

SECTION I.

SPECIFIC INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

I. TYPHOID FEVER.

Definition.—An infectious disease, characterized anatomically by hyperplasia and ulceration of the lymph-follicles of the intestines, swelling of the mesenteric glands and spleen, and parenchymatous changes in the other organs. The bacillus of Eberth is constantly present in the lesions. Clinically the disease is marked by fever, a rose-colored eruption, diarrhœa, abdominal tenderness, tympanites, and enlargement of the spleen; but these symptoms are extremely inconstant, and even the fever varies in its characters.

Historical Note.—The dates 1813 and 1850 include the modern discussion of the subject. Prior to the former year many observers had noted clinical differences in the continued fevers. Huxham in particular, in his remarkable essay, had recognized varieties. In 1813 Pierre Bretonneau, of Tours, distinguished “dothiéntéríte” as a separate disease; and Petit and Serres described entero-mesenteric fever. Trousseau and Velpeau, students of Bretonneau, were, in 1820, instrumental in making his views known to Andral and others in Paris. In 1829 Louis’ great work appeared, in which the name “typhoid” was given to the fever. At this period typhoid fever alone prevailed in Paris, and it was universally believed to be identical with the continued fever of Great Britain, where in reality typhoid and typhus coexisted, and the intestinal lesion was regarded as an accidental occurrence in the course of ordinary typhus. Louis’ students returning to their homes in different countries had opportunities of studying the prevalent fevers in the thorough and systematic manner of their master. Among these were certain young American physicians, to one of whom, Gerhard, of Philadelphia, is due the great honor of having first clearly laid down the differences between the two diseases. His papers in the American Journal of the Medical Sciences are undoubtedly the first in any language which give a full and