

in typhoid, or to leave it alone unless very severe. In the early stages of typhoid there is usually diarrhœa. As the case progresses the stools generally become less frequent and more consistant; and towards the end of the attack the bowels are usually confined, and sometimes very obstinately so. This would appear to indicate that the right line of practice is to leave the case alone, unless the diarrhœa be so severe as to imperil the safety of the patient, in which case it should, if possible, be checked. I, however, while refraining from giving astringents in cases of ordinary typhoid, regard the frequency of the evacuations as in part indicating the amount of stimulus and support which should be given to the patient, and I believe that this rule will generally be found to answer.

When in case of typhoid the bowels become confined, much caution is required in the exhibition of aperients; enemata are always safe, and generally will procure sufficient relief; but sometimes, and especially when the patient is taking a fair amount of food, more free evacuation may seem to be required; and yet the mildest aperients may bring back the diarrhœa and cause a relapse. The rule which I generally follow is not to interfere so long as the patient is apparently not suffering from the bowels not being acted upon, and this even though several days should elapse; but if the patient complains much of sense of fulness, or experiences uneasiness or pain, and especially if the abdomen becomes tumid and tender, the bowels must be relieved. Under the circumstances I generally order a dose of calomel and opium, one or two grains of the former to one of the latter, and follow this by a small dose of castor oil and by an enema if necessary, and the effect of one or two doses of this kind is almost always to procure full and satisfactory evacuation, after which the symptoms generally entirely subside. You will recollect that in the case of the nurse the bowels were not acted upon for six days, at the end of which time threatening symptoms appeared, but entirely subsided under the course of treatment which I have men-