

a pyrexia of less variable range, provided it be moderate in degree.

For my own part I do not favor the use of antipyretic drugs—at any rate, in antipyretic doses—in cases of moderate fever, as I firmly believe such pyrexia to be a natural element of defence against bacterial invasion, and that in proportion as one is successful in stifling what appears to be a reactive pyrexia by means of a powerful antipyretic drug, one is acting the part of a very questionable friend in tying the hands of one who is striving to defend himself against an antagonist who has already secured an advantage. In cases, however, in which the pyrexia becomes excessive and in itself represents an additional element of danger by reason of its damaging effect on the cardiac muscle and the central nervous system, vigorous antipyretic measures are certainly indicated, as in these circumstances the symptom pyrexia calls for prompt repression. For its accomplishment I much prefer the direct application of cold to the surface, supplemented, if necessary, by a dose of sulphate of quinine, but to this I shall have occasion to refer again when speaking of symptomatic treatment.

Of the various methods of treating enteric fever by means of cold application to the surface, or, to speak more correctly, by the abstraction of heat or refrigeration, there can, I think be no doubt that the most effective by far is the repeated employment of the cold bath, a form of treatment strenuously advocated some forty years ago by Brand, of Stettin. This, with slight modifications at the hands of his numerous followers, has been very widely employed on the continent, in America, and elsewhere; and, it must be admitted, with signal success. Treatment by means of frequent cold bathing had been extensively practised by James Currie, of Liverpool, some seventy or eighty years previously, though subsequently it fell into disuse. Currie's methods were undoubtedly somewhat crude and apparently more exacting, although the same principle was involved. He placed his patients in a wooden tub and buckets of cold water were poured over them, a procedure which is hardly in accordance with our views as to the proper way of dealing with a case of enteric fever at the present day. But even in Currie's time, as Collie has pointed out, a cold bath treatment was no new thing, since the records show authentic evidence of its employment by the ancients. Asclepiades, for instance, was in the habit of sending his fever patients to bathe in the springs of Catillæ, where they apparently derived great benefit.

It is claimed that the cold-bath treatment, when properly