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THE TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.*

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A full discussion of the treatment of disease, especially if it be of a protracted course, would involve the questions of prophylaxis, complications and sequelae. This brief paper is not intended for a dissertation on the treatment of typhoid fever. I will simply state the plan I myself use, rather than detail the various methods now in vogue.

The prophylactic treatment of typhoid fever may be divided into two heads: 1. Prophylaxis of the community: 2. Individual prophylaxis. The former belongs to the general subject of hygiene, and is not so much in the hands of the physician as in those of the city officials and board of health. For every case of typhoid, someone is responsible; and for every epidemic, the whole community.

Turning our attention to individual prophylaxis, we find it includes the disinfection of food, especially milk and water, and of the discharges, both faecal and urinary, of typhoid fever patients. In times of epidemic, the drinking water should be boiled; and at all times, in cities where typhoid is endemic, it should be filtered. With reference to suspected milk, the only safeguard is total abstinence or boiling.

The stools should be immediately and thoroughly disinfected. The crudest ideas prevail with reference to this vitally important matter. A typhoid stool should be thoroughly disinfected before it is thrown into a privy or water-closet. We know that the best laboratory germicide is corrosive sublimate, but in the sick-room it is open to certain practical objections, the first of which is its poisonous nature. Another is that it

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