

alone; when the rise of temperature, however, by itself is injurious, it should be interfered with. At all events the treatment of the symptom "fever" gives us no hope of shortening the disease in which it occurs, or of which it forms a part; on the other hand, it is a satisfaction to know that, while we increase the comfort and diminish the immediate dangers, the natural healing process is not disturbed. In this way both the justification and the limitation of the so-called expectant treatment become evident. To allow a high temperature to deteriorate tissues and exhaust the heart or brain is as injudicious as is the custom of emphasizing the number of degrees of Fahrenheit as the only valuable part of a morbid process. To be satisfied with depressing temperature is a grave mistake, but to allow pneumonia to run its deleterious course of high temperature unchecked with their full influence on the rapidity of respiration and the action of the heart and on the increase of waste is equally injudicious.

In their injurious influence on nutrition protracted infectious fevers act, first, like direct losses or like starvation, and, secondly, as immediate poisons. The younger the patient the greater is the danger from that source. That is why a high temperature without any, or with a trifling remission, should not be allowed to last, though its immediate effect may not appear very ominous. When a high temperature results in a convulsion we never hesitate to reduce it; here we admit there is a vital indication. Why, then, not reduce it while there is the danger of a possibility or probability of its occurrence? Add to these facts the disposition of the young to inanition which is caused by two main factors. The first is their rapid metabolism, the second and principal one is the relative, almost universal, insufficiency of the young organism.

Moreover, we should not forget that most of our antipyretics are at the same time nervines, analgesics and diaphoretics, thus improving comfort and metabolism. They are surely indicated when bathing is not sufficiently efficient or when baths are contraindicated; in that case they may act as adjuvants, as combinations and procure sleep and remissions. If I add that there are, however, contraindications to the use of medicinal antipyretics because of possible idiosyncrasies and of the debilitating effects which many of the antipyretic drugs are apt to exhibit, I merely say what all have experienced and what everybody should remember, viz., that no degree of Fahrenheit and no Greek name of a morbid process are the subjects of our medication, but an