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PEPTONES IN TYPHOID FEVER.*

FREDERICK FENTON, M.D.,

Demonstrator of Histology, Trinity Medical College.

I desire to present to you the notes of two cases of typhoid fever in which I used peptone feeding with marked benefit.

The first case was that of a man aged 21 years, a patient in Toronto General Hospital during the fall of 1892.

He had passed through a severe attack of typhoid and after a few day's convalescence had relapsed.

His temperature was high (104°) from the beginning of the recrudescence with low muttering delirium, carphologia, subsultus, uncontrollable vomiting, pulse almost imperceptible, mouth everywhere lined with sordes. The patient would slip down into the middle of the bed if left for even a few minutes.

He was emaciated to an extreme degree and with the prospects of another three weeks of fever, offered but small encouragement to his attendants. He was given large amounts of stimulant of all kinds, alcoholic and otherwise, but without any perceptible influence on his pulse or condition generally.

To make matters worse, on the second or third day of his relapse a pneumonia developed, and patient apparently lost the power to swallow.

From the first, owing to the vomiting, nutrient enemata of milk had been used to supplement what was being taken by the mouth, but the inability to swallow left us wholly dependent upon rectal feeding.

Four ounces of peptonized milk were given every two hours and retained fairly well for a day or two, but with no improvement in the condition, until the idea of giving completely digested proteid in large amounts was suggested. The whites of ten hard boiled eggs were finely minced and mixed with a pint of an artificial gastric juice made of pepsin and HCl in due proportions and kept at body temperature in a water bath for some hours until no trace of egg was left on inspection.

This quantity was administered every twenty-four hours with an equal amount of thoroughly peptonized milk, being injected high up into the rectum.

* Read before the Toronto Clinical Society.