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THE HÆMORRHAGIC DIATHESIS IN TYPHOID FEVER AND ITS RELATION- SHIP TO PURPURIC CONDITIONS IN GENERAL.¹

It is a matter of common observation that in certain infectious and presumably infectious diseases like typhus fever, scurvy, Werlhoff's disease, and peliosis rheumatica, hæmorrhagic eruptions develop in the skin and mucous membranes. That which is the primary and cardinal train of symptoms in these diseases may be found exceptionally as a complication in certain others, like variola, scarlet fever, measles, enteric fever, cholera, yellow fever, sepsis, and acute atrophy of the liver.

In the course of typhoid fever or enteric fever a number of examples have been recorded during the past two decades where hæmorrhagic complications have supervened. Of course, minor hæmorrhagic manifestations, like epistaxis which so frequently ushers in the attack, or like intestinal hæmorrhage which is present in a considerable proportion of ordinary cases, are common enough, while either of these conditions may, under certain conditions, be part and parcel of a general hæmorrhagic tendency and represent its first symptom. This does not in itself constitute the hæmorrhagic diathesis. This term should be restricted to those cases where multiple hæmorrhages take place and which are evidenced clinically by purpuric eruptions into the skin, oozing of blood from the mucous membranes, epistaxis, hæmoptysis, hæmatemesis, melæna, or metrorrhagia. All of these symptoms, of course, may not be present simultaneously, since very varying grades of the condition exist. Most authorities are agreed that such occurrences are very rare, though their possibility has been recognised for many years.

¹ We desire to express our thanks to Dr. W. F. Hamilton, of the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, for the opportunity of recording this case of hæmorrhagic typhoid fever.