

The first one hundred cases treated in the Montreal General Hospital during the present epidemic may be divided into the following classes:

(a) Of mild cases, showing all the symptoms of scarlet fever with a moderate fever and a little failure of the general health, there were forty.

(b) Of moderately severe cases, with a high temperature, a severe angina and intense rash, with considerable depression, there were twenty-nine.

(c) Of severe cases with a continued high temperature, ulceration and destruction of the tissues of the throat and involvement of the glands of the neck, there were thirty-one.

In over 50 per cent. of the mild and moderate cases, convalescence set in on the fourth or fifth day by crisis, the temperature falling in a few hours two or three degrees, then by lysis reaching normal by the end of a week or ten days. In a few cases the temperature fell to normal in twenty-four hours. The remainder of the cases reached the normal by a gradual lysis in from five to ten days.

The rash in many cases presented peculiar appearances. In many of the mild cases it was apparently absent or very transient, or appeared only in certain parts of the body, chiefly on the neck and chest, in the form of erythema. In three cases minute red spots without a general redness appeared.

In the moderately severe cases the rash as a rule presented the appearances generally described, but two or three presented a distinctly papular rash, these papules being specially distinct on the back of the hands and forearms.

Among the severe cases, anomalous rashes were common. One case presented a papular hæmorrhagic rash over the whole body without any distinct coloration of the skin between. Two or three cases had very numerous small vesicles over the whole body. The case of a young child presented the appearance of an acute exfoliative dermatitis.

The throat in mild cases showed as a rule redness and some slight swelling of the soft palate and tonsils. In the severe cases the whole palate, pharynx and tonsils were intensely red and covered with sticky mucus. In the most severe cases ulceration and destruction of the tissues occurred, accompanied by a foetid odor. In these cases also the glands of the neck became swollen and inflamed, frequently running on to suppuration. A general pyæmia has been frequently set up.

In one case sloughing of the tonsils and cellular tissues of the pharynx occurred, leaving the muscles of the pharynx clearly dissected out. In another case an abscess developed behind the soft palate, which was evacuated by an opening through it with immediate relief.

A large number of cases presented a diphtheritic appearance. This was most common among the moderately severe cases but was also common in the very severe cases. They were always accompanied by enlargement of the glands of the neck which very occasionally went on to suppuration. This diphtheritic condition occurred in 8 per cent. of the cases.

The digestive system was not, as a rule, much disturbed except the appetite was lost. Vomiting was persistent for four or five days in four cases. Diarrhœa was troublesome in three cases early in the disease. In fatal cases it frequently set in during the last three or four days.

The complications and sequælae have been numerous and varied.

The most frequent and most dangerous was inflammation of the glands of the neck. This occurred in 19 per cent. of the cases. The most dangerous was that form with an ulcerated condition of the throat. It generally ran on to suppuration, and was by far the most frequent cause of death, five deaths occurring from this cause, while only three recovered.

A less important form was that accompanying the pseudo-diphtheritic angina. This only went on to suppuration in one case, and caused no deaths. These two forms have occurred in the first two weeks of the disease. Three per cent. of the cases suddenly developed an acute inflammation of these glands during the third week of convalescence. It set in with chill and high fever, and a rapid enlargement of the glands took place. In two cases complete recovery took place by the third day, but one ran on to suppuration.

Acute nephritis occurred in 8 per cent. of the cases, coming on insidiously in the third or fourth week. Death occurred in two cases with complete suppression of urine and convulsions. In five cases apparent complete recovery took place after two or three weeks. One case, the only one in which dropsy was markedly present, became chronic.

Otitis media occurred in six per cent. of cases most frequently with the pseudo-diphtheritic angina, but occasionally with the mildest cases. It may occur at any time during the first four weeks of the disease.

True diphtheria has been present in four cases, but cases have been frequently coming into the hospital suffering from diphtheria, and evidently only shortly convalescent from scarlet fever.

Arthritis was common following this disease. A large number complained of slight pain in one or more joints. Three per cent. have suffered from severe attacks resembling acute rheumatism with fever and swelling of the joints. In one case, double hip joint disease rapidly developed with dislocation of the heads of both femurs upwards and backwards. There was no evident formation of pus.

In another case a so-called white swelling