

One cannot leave the consideration of this subject without noticing the indispensable relation which the giving of large quantities of water bears to the use of purgatives in this scheme of elimination. Unless care be exercised in this matter the fluids of the body would be drained off, to the serious disadvantage of the tissues. Moreover, the toxins in the body would become more concentrated and therefore more harmful.

A moment's reflection will show the wisdom of this course during the employment of purgatives, in this way replacing the toxin-laden fluid which has been carried away.

Although the purpose of this paper is to indicate the use of purgatives in the treatment of typhoid fever, yet in the eliminative plan of treatment which I have advocated the excretory function of the kidneys was not lost sight of, and it was shown that elimination of toxins by the kidneys is facilitated by the giving of large quantities of water.

I have before also advocated the use of calomel, in connection, of course, with salines, because of its excellent diuretic action.⁹ It consequently promotes elimination through both the intestines and the kidneys.

To summarize, the use of purgatives in typhoid fever and the purpose of the eliminative plan is:

1. To limit the original infection and intoxication of the system generally.

2. To carry away the toxic bile as it is poured into the intestine.

3. To promote elimination through the medium of the serous exudate into the intestine.

4. To promote excretion of toxins by the kidneys.

5. By lessening the toxæmia, to increase the resistance and aggressive action of the tissues. (I have before drawn attention to the fact that the aggressive and defensive action of the cells must be in inverse ratio to the degree of toxæmia.¹⁰)

6. To prevent excessive accumulation of bacilli (typhoid bacilli, colon bacilli, etc.) and toxins in the intestinal glands, thus lessening the likelihood of extensive necrosis and ulceration, and the dangers incidental to that condition.

7. By maintaining the intestine as free as possible from bacilli and toxins, and frequently clearing it out to lessen the work thrown on the liver from the portal side, and thus to enable it to exercise its depurative function more fully in the interception of poisons in the general circulation.

8. To lessen the chance of death from exhaustion due to the long-continued action of large quantities of poison on the tissues.

9. To lessen the amount of poison in the body and avert the danger of death from excessive accumulation of toxin, *i.e.*, acute toxæmia.

10. To prevent the discomfort and danger arising from accumulation of gases in the intestine.