

crisis or critical days of the fever to which I would draw your attention, as the crisis in which the pythogenic symptoms appear: this change may be slower in some cases more than others, but never more than two or three days from the first appearance of the tongue becoming dry, red or brown, till the unmistakable sordes, with parched, cracked tongue, the brown, increasing to black, incessant thirst, increased pulse, pain in the head, dimness of vision, contracted pupils, ringing in the ears, sleeplessness, wandering of the mind, muttering, muscular tremors, and general agitation, follow in rapid succession. I have seen typhus fever change from apparent hopeful convalescence to the most alarming and hopeless state, in twenty-four hours. It is sufficient to allude to all standard authors without quoting from any, that there is a direct tendency to putrescency and waste of tissue in the general cause of the disease, and that the rose-coloured spots or petechia are manifestations of its approach. However, I look upon the state of the tongue with the symptoms already enumerated as far more certain indications of the change from one stage to the other. This then is the stage of the disease in which I would venture to advise the use of the manganates, and chief of these the permanganate of potassa, and this only is the theory I advance. Indeed the only reason that induced me to try this remedy in typhus was the impression that at a certain state, varying several days, it was sure to assume the putrid type, and that if a disinfectant could be found sufficient to counteract the tendency, a sure check could be put to the disease running its course.

The chlorides of lime and soda have been the principal and most active anti-bromic compounds, in general use, though manganese as in Young's, and lead in Ledoyen's disinfecting liquids, have been used as bases; but they at best act only by driving out the fœtor by a sort of *vis a tergo* force occupying the place themselves.

The salts of manganese have been long in use, as gentle alteratives, acting quite as effectually and less objectionable than mercury, and in combination with iron extolled as possessing great advantages in the treatment of anemic cases, when iron alone has failed.

Permanganate of potassa was first brought into notice in 1857 by Mr. Candy as a disinfectant, and has since been repeatedly tried in the various forms of sloughing and ill-conditioned ulcers. It has been greatly used in the United States in hospital gangrene, and in all cases sustained its high reputation as the most powerful disinfectant known to the profession. Unlike the chlorides, the salts of manganese act by the escape of oxygen, and thus completely destroying all traces of the poison or miasm or effluvium supplying the most active life-giving principle, the most power