

**STATISTICS AND TREATMENT OF
TYPHUS AND TYPHOID FEVER, FROM
TWELVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE GAINED
AT THE SERAPHIM HOSPITAL IN
STOCKHOLM, (1840-1852)**

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FROM

TWELVE YEARS' EXPERIENCE
GAINED AT THE SERAPHIM HOSPITAL IN STOCKHOLM,
(1840—1852).

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PREFACE.

BEING of opinion that it is the duty of every physician, to publish the results of the scientific experience, gained during his practice, I would now submit to the consideration of other practitioners the results of my experience in the treatment of the two forms of the typhus process. This experience is gained from an extensive field of observation, from more than 3000 cases, within a large hospital. Although gained chiefly from observations at a hospital, I have had many opportunities of confirming it by observations in private practice, so that I venture to consider it free from that partiality, with which the exclusive hospital experience may be charged. A considerable number of medical pupils, having within the last fifteen years, attended the clinical lectures and consequently witnessed the treatment now detailed

and the results obtained, this treatment has, by the entrance of these pupils into independent practice, been spread, and, as I have no reason to doubt, been very generally adopted in our country. It is, therefore, not the experience of one but of many, it may consequently be considered to possess some value.

I have divided the treatise into three chapters. In the first, under the form of an introduction, I thought it right to account for the reasons, on which I founded the opinion, that the typhus process is one, but that it has several forms; and that I have, in the exposition as well of the statistics, as of its treatment, united the forms, occurring in the north, typhus petechialis and typhus abdominalis, into one disease. I have dedicated the second chapter to statistical calculations, as well with respect to several ætiological points, as to the modes of termination and some of the most important symptoms. In the third I have detailed the special therapeutics during the different stages of the disease, the convalescence, and the most important of the sequelæ. I have everywhere endeavored to be as brief as possible, without neg-

lecting anything that could be deemed important: I have also for the sake of brevity omitted to quote the statements of other authors, supposing those, who are conversant with the typhus literature, will easily distinguish what is my own and what is taken from others.

Although I have in several places in this work declared, that my statements are exclusively founded on experience as to the typhus process, as it occurs in the north, I now beg the indulgent reader always to bear this in mind that doubts may not arise as to the conformity of my observations to nature. The results from other countries may for many reasons differ from those I have obtained, although neither my observations nor those of others are incorrectly made. Notwithstanding the chief characters of the diseases are the same in all countries of Europe, the same disease may be modified in many ways in different localities: certain symptoms may be more evident and frequent in some places than in others, and a certain mode of treatment may give in one locality results altogether dissimilar to those in another. Should then the indulgent reader find that the experience I have

made does not agree with his own, I think the reason must for the most part be sought in this circumstance.

As there are no new remedies in the special therapeutics I have detailed, I have endeavored chiefly to direct the attention to a more accurate definition of the indications for the remedies already known. These indications, such as they have appeared to my observation may at least serve the young practitioner as a guide, and may besides be considered as a contribution to the therapeutic geography of the typhus process, if I may so express myself. I consider it to be a very important chapter in the history of the typhus process, which until now, as far as I know, has been but little attended to, a chapter treating of the different effect and applicability of different modes of treatment, in different climates and under different local circumstances. I venture to assert, that it would be a very important contribution to a more accurate knowledge of the therapeutics of the typhus process, with respect to its diversity in different countries, if other physicians, not residing in the north, would do as I have endeavored to do, viz.

state with exactness the action of the remedies employed, together with strict indications under what special conditions each remedy should most judiciously be administered and consequently when we may be most likely to gain the intended effect of a remedy.

I see full well the defects of this treatise. Severe censure may be expected from those places especially, where the two forms of the typhus process are considered as two distinct morbid processes, because I have, both in the statistics and the treatment, classed and treated them promiscuously. But I have followed my experience and the results it gave; the future must decide, whether I have construed this experience correctly or not. In this as in other points, I hope the critic will not be too severe.
