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The treatment of Typhoid Fever by Carbolic Acid.

The following is a record of several cases of Typhoid Fever treated by me in the Isolation Hospital of the Isle of Thanet Union, Kent.

The 3 cases were Esther Price 22 years, Ethel Clarke 19 years, & Mary Morton 20 years. Servant girls admitted in May 1898 from a hotel at Westgate, where there had been several cases of Typhoid among visitors before these girls were attacked.

The medical officer of health, attributed the outbreak to defective drainage, which is carried out by means of cesspools, most probably the drinking water - got from wells in a good many of the houses, - was contaminated by leakage from the cesspools.

The majority of the houses in the district get their water supply from the Westgate water works & these were not attacked, so that it is almost certain that the cesspools were the cause of the disease.

These 3 patients were mild cases & the

treatment was in each case a prescription made up as follows:-

R_x. Acid fcarbolic m XXIV
 Tinct. fard. fo. $\overline{3\text{ij}}$
 Syrupus $\overline{3\text{i}}$
 Aquae ad $\overline{3\text{vi}}$

Sig: - $\frac{1}{6}$ th part every 6 hours. ~~xxx~~

All 3 patients improved considerably from date of admission, the dry brown tongue became moister, the diarrhoea was held in check, & the stools were certainly less offensive than is usually the case.

There was no disturbance of the stomach & the patients took the milk readily & digested it well, & there were no complications & no sequelae so that after an uninterrupted convalescence they were discharged in the beginning of June

The next three cases were children sent from a district near Margate. They were admitted on June 21st 1898 & Alice Headlam age 10 years had probably had the fever for 2 weeks. She was in a very low condition, almost pulseless, & in addition to the cardiac asthenia, there were evidences of pneumonia, 6ozs of brandy were given in 24 hours. & $\frac{1}{80}$ th gr. of Strychnine ^(subcutaneously) 3 times in 24 hrs & at the end of the first day there was a decided improvement in the pulse, but the patient suffered from a severe hacking cough, which expectorants did not seem to relieve much, most relief was obtained by change of position after the most dangerous symptoms had passed.

When this patient was first put on the carbolic mixture the stomach rejected it & there was great difficulty in keeping the milk down but by giving it in doses of one table spoonful every hour with the same quantity of soda water the stomach

retained it & the patient took $2\frac{1}{2}$ pints of milk in 24 hours easily after the 1st two or 3 days.

The carbolic mixture was now well tolerated and seemed to refresh the patient and subdue tympanites & improve the tongue although an application of Borax and Glycerine used for the mouth and lips proved very useful in preventing the brown & cracked condition of the mucous membrane usually present at this stage of the disease.

There was slight hæmorrhage on July 9th which was easily controlled by ice applied to the right iliac fossa, & the quantity of milk was reduced & given iced.

An enema which proved very useful for this condition was —

R_y Dover's powder gr 8.
 Tannic Acid gr 15.
 Mucilage of Starch ʒij ~~ss.~~

Diarrhoea was rather troublesome during the 1st week, this patient having as many as 14 motions in the 24 hours

5.

but was soon controlled by a mixture of
R_y. Acid Sulph. Aromat m 10.

R_x. Opii m 5. ~~m 5.~~

given every hour till the diarrhoea
ceased, the milk at the same time
being alkalisied.

This girl suffered with low muttering
delirium for the 1st fortnight, & was
very restless, an occasional dose of
Bromide of Potassium relieved this
condition.

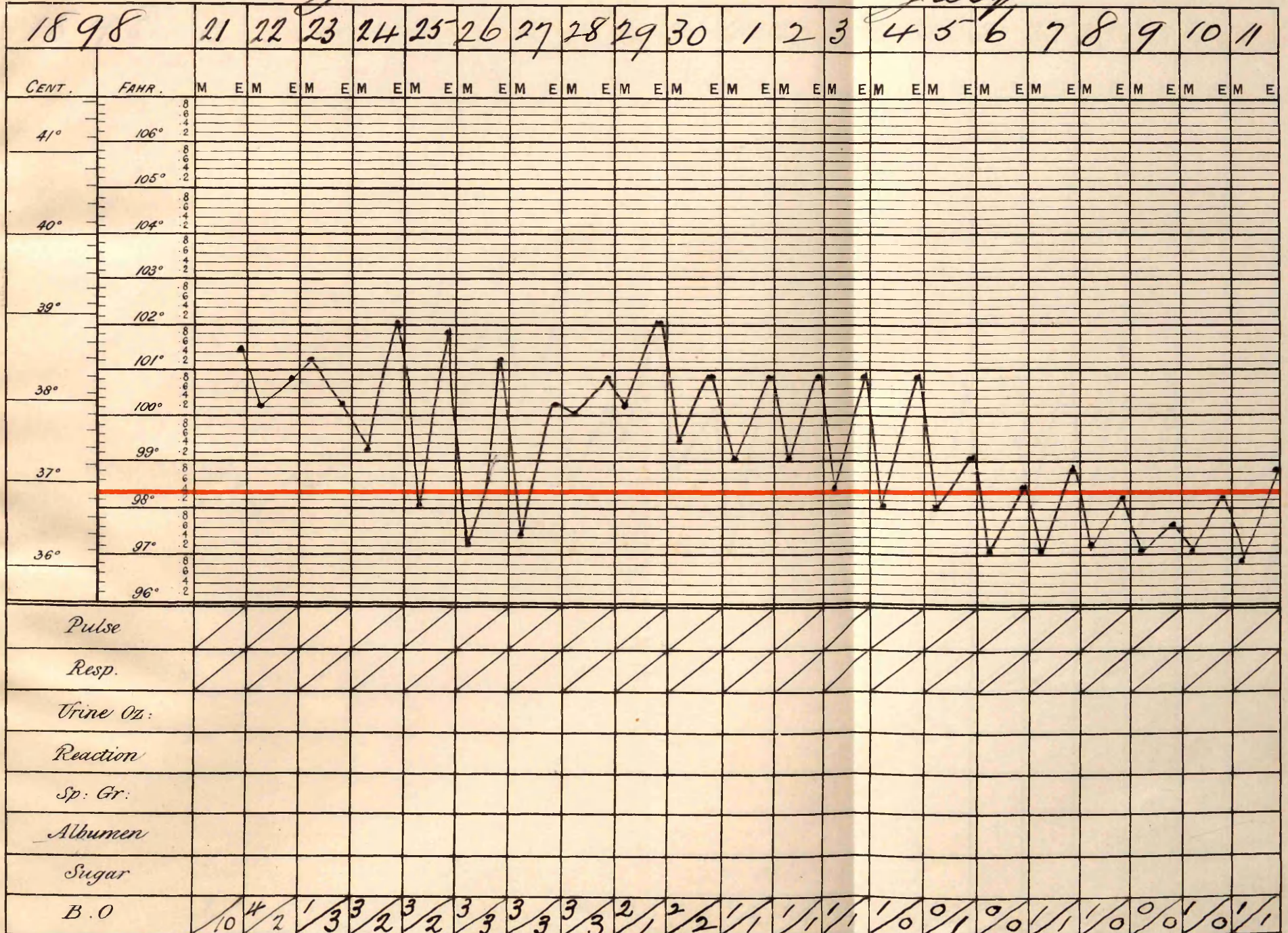
On the 25th of June the temperature
fell to normal & kept about the normal
for 10 days, but on the 16th of July she
had a relapse the temperature
going up to 103.8° with nothing to
account for it unless there was
absorption of septic matter from
the typhoid ulcers.

After this the temperature gradually
fell again & did not rise above the
normal after August 1st, on Aug 7th

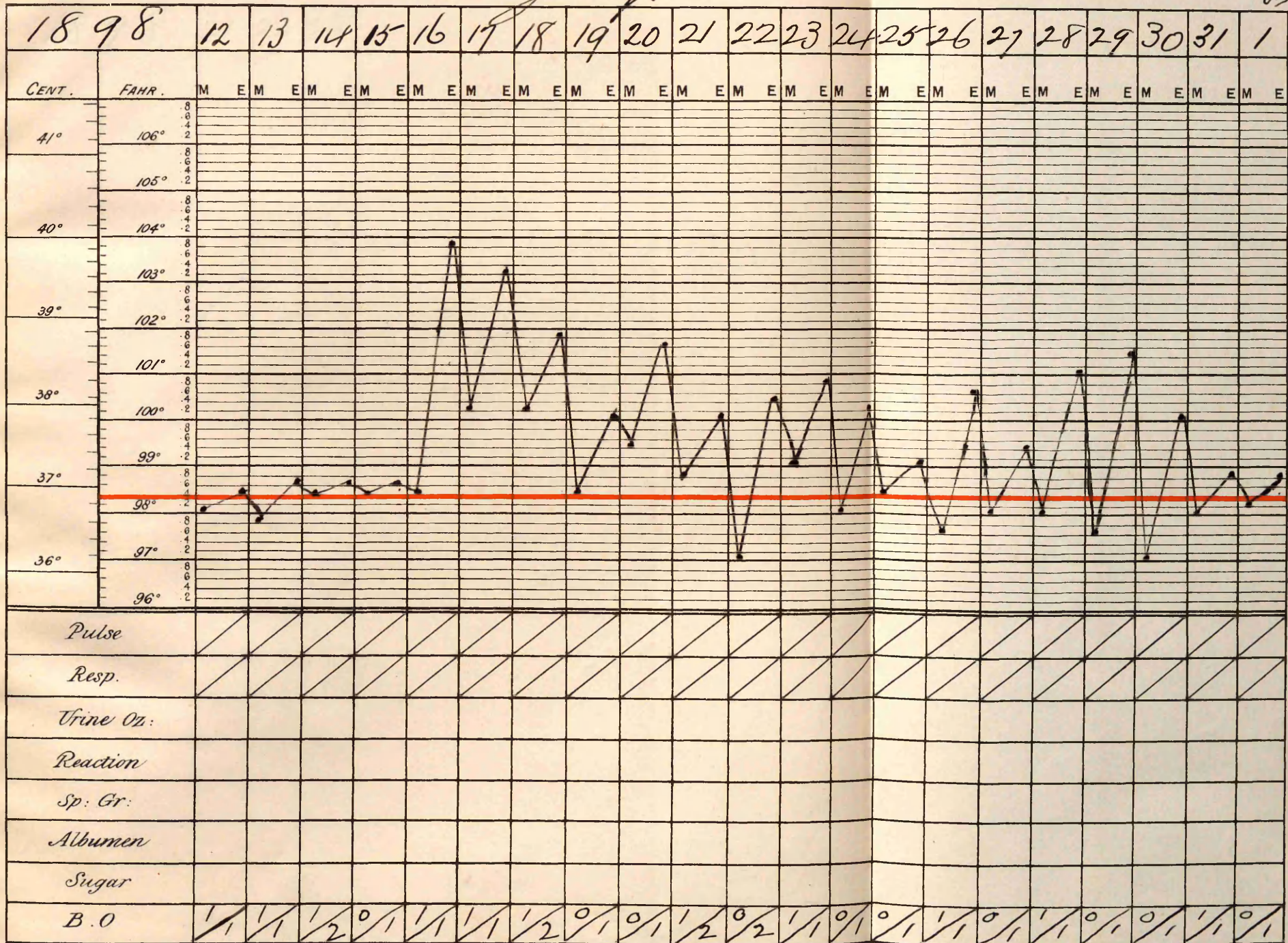
the patient was permitted to sit
up in bed a little & was allowed bread
& milk, a couple of sponge cakes & a
pint of chicken broth during the day

Name *Alice Hadlam* Age *10 yrs.* Disease *Typhoid Fever* Result *Recovery.*

June *July*

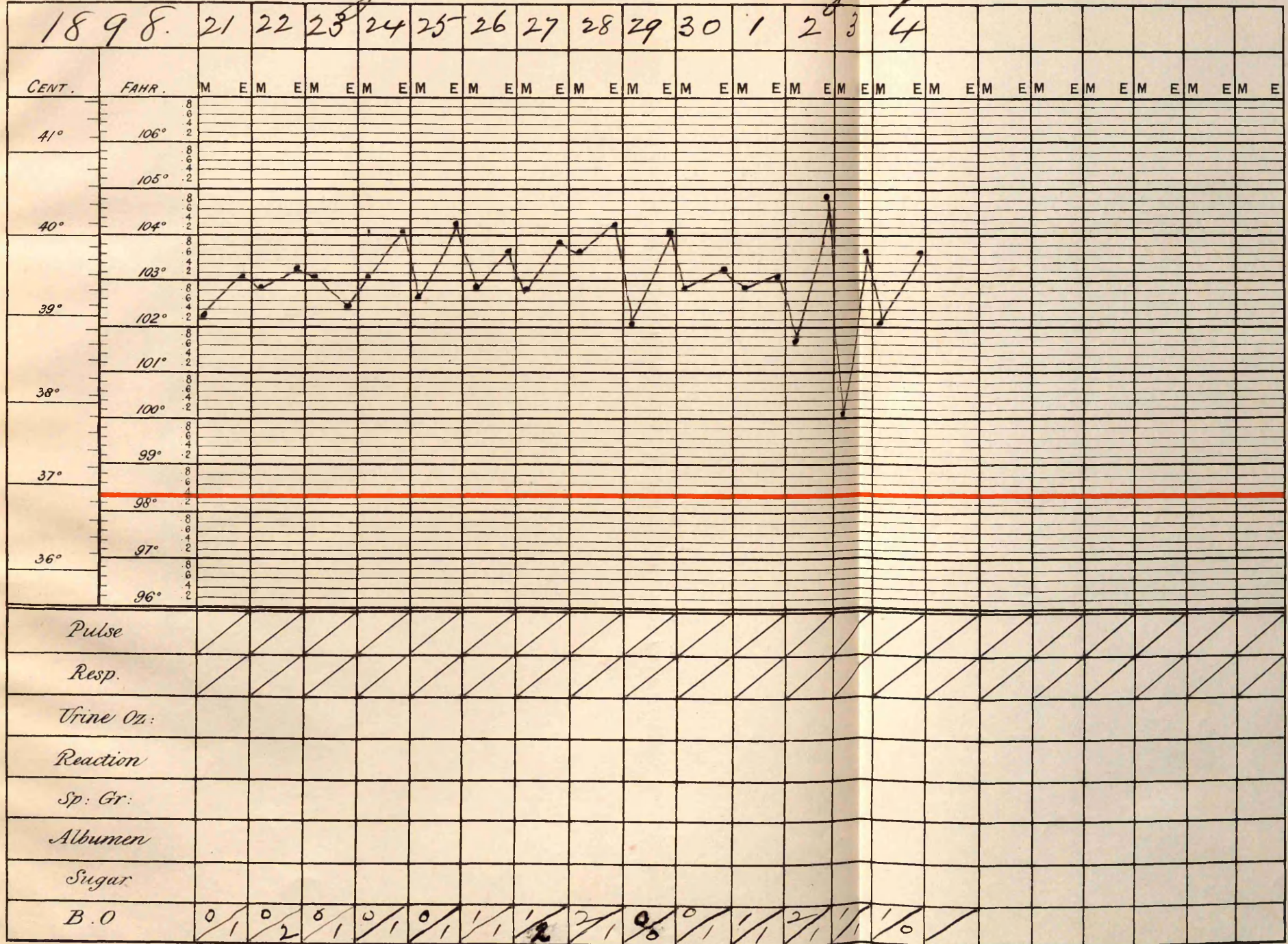


Name *Alice Headlam* Age *10 years* Disease *Typhoid Fever.* Result *Recovery.*
July. *Aug.*



Name *Eliza Headlam* Age *12 yrs.* Disease *Typhoid Fever.* Result *Death*

June *July*



Then a mutton cutlet with bread & a little claret for dinner & was discharged well on the 14th of August.

Eliza Headlam age 12 years was a very bad case on admission on June 21st 48 she was delirious, the pulse was 140 per min, & the temperature 102.2° there was congestion of both lungs & she was very livid & had an irritating hacking cough & the mouth & tongue were very dry. & 6ozs of Brandy were given in the 24 hrs & the following prescription was tried & although the pulse & breathing seemed to improve slightly it had no permanent effect.

R^x. Ammon. Carb. gr $\overline{\text{XVI}}$.
 Ir. Digital m $\overline{\text{XL}}$.
 Spt. Chlorof. $\overline{3\text{ʒ}}$.
 Aquae ad $\overline{3\text{iv}}$. ~~877~~

Sig:- 3ʒ every 4 hours.

7.

The temperature was of a higher type than in the other cases & reached 104.8° on the 2nd of July 2 days before death. This patient passed urine & her motions involuntarily & was practically unconscious from the day of admission till death. She did not swallow well, & it was found that the bowel would not retain nutrient enemata. She gradually sank & died on July 4th.

George Headlam was evidently in the early stage of the disease on admission & gradually developed all the characteristic symptoms. He had the typhoid spots on the abdomen very typically on the 7th day. His bowels were never very loose but he had considerable pain in the right iliac fossa.

The nurses had the greatest difficulty in getting him to take the milk as he said he was being starved & thought if he did not take it he would get

some solid food, but as he got weaker he became more amenable & took the milk very well.

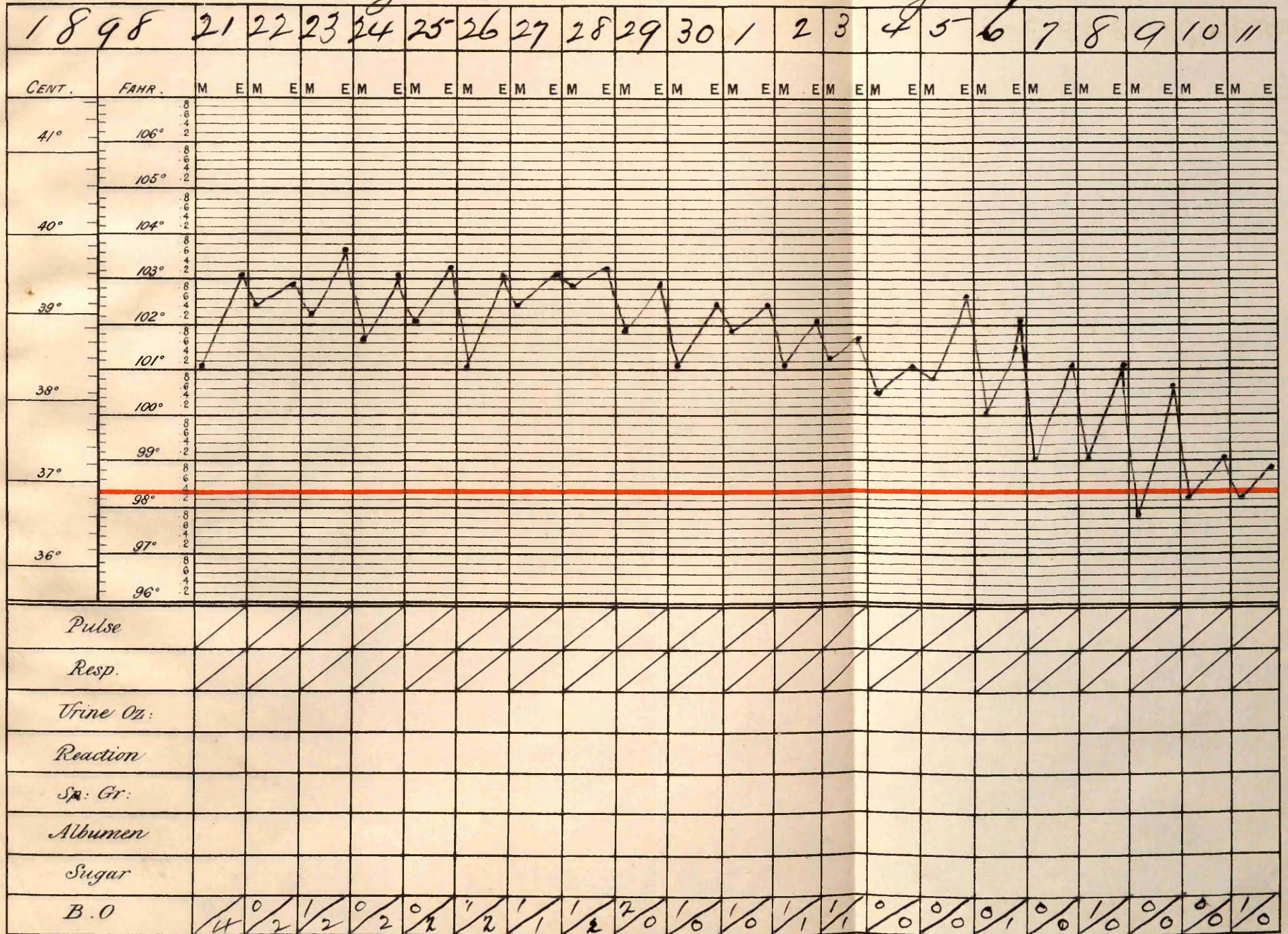
In the case of this boy as in the others admitted, the removal from home to the hospital, or perhaps their not being kept absolutely on a milk diet at home, to some extent accounted for the looseness of the bowels, so that on the day of admission the diarrhoea was worse than at any other time of the illness.

Probably this boy had been ill for about a week before admission, but the temperature did not have the characteristic morning drop & rise again in the evening until he had been in hospital 3 weeks.

During the 1st fortnight there was a very slight fall in the temperature in the morning & the maximum evening temperature was only 103.6° which was recorded two days after admission & during the 4th week the temperature was of the intermittent type generally found

Name *George Headlam* Age *13 yrs* Disease *Typhoid Fever* Result *Recovery*

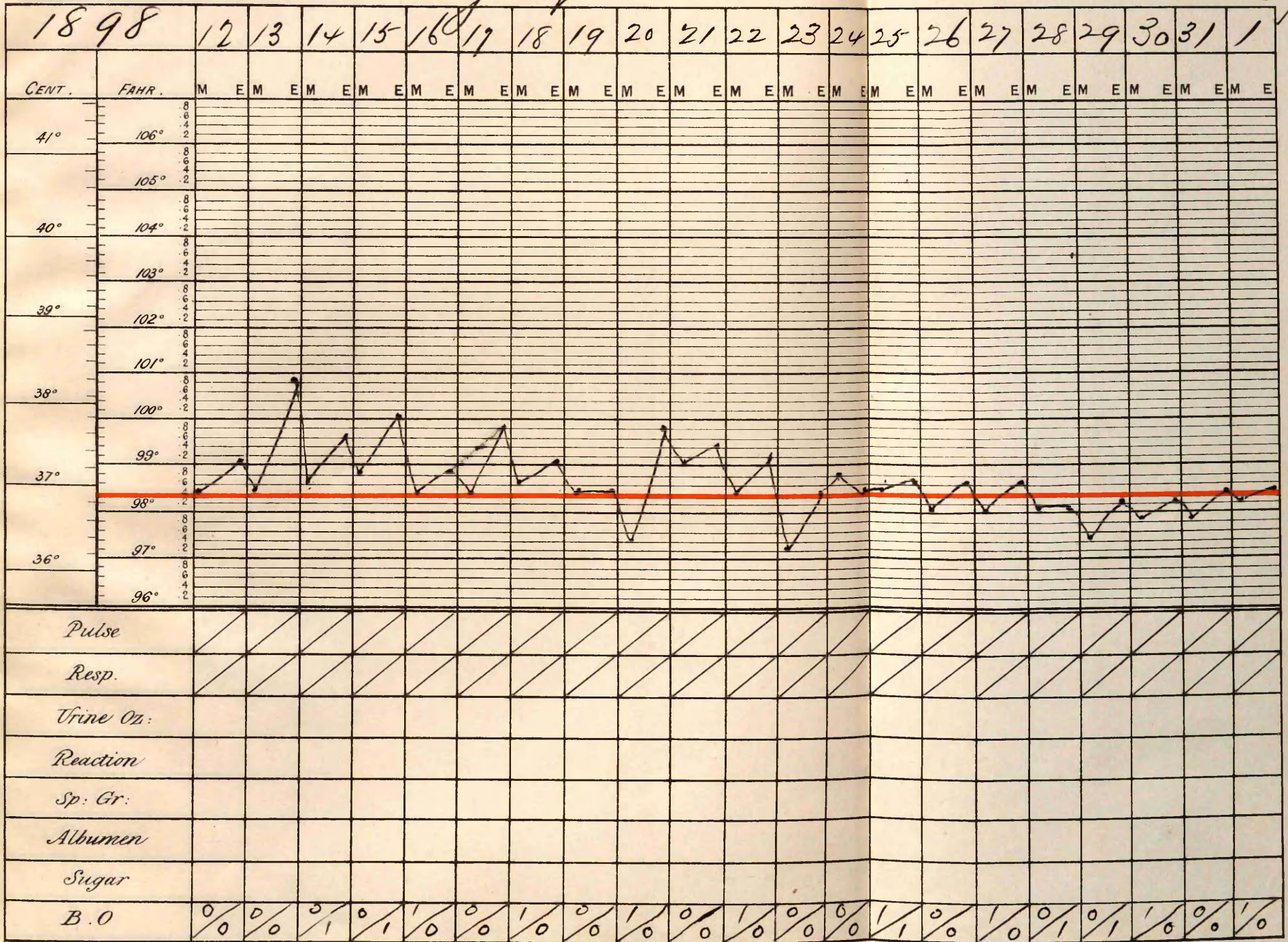
June *July*



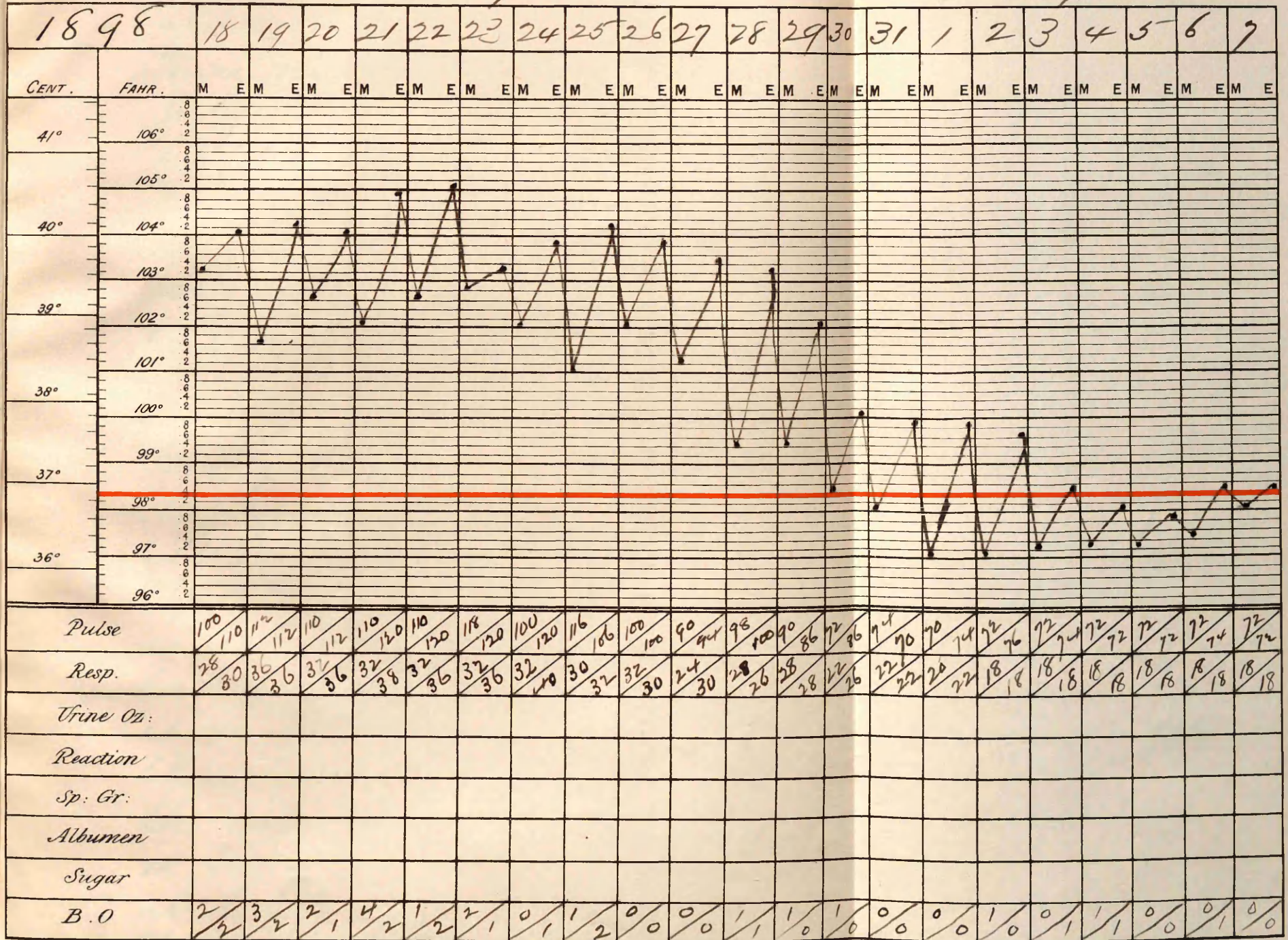
Name *George Headlam* Age *13 yrs.* Disease *Typhoid Fever* Result *Recovery.*

July

Aug.



Name *George Brecht* Age *18 yrs* Disease *Typhoid Fever* Result *Recovery*
August. *September!*



in this disease.

In the 3rd + 4th week this patient suffered from constipation, but was always relieved by glycerine enemata. There was haemorrhage on the 8th of July, which was checked by the application of ice to the iliac region + the use of cold enemata. The patient took the carbolic mixture very well, was up on the 4th of August + made a good recovery.

George Brecht

This youth of 18 years must have been ill 2 or 3 weeks before admission on the 18th of August, he seemed practically an imbecile + at first it was thought he was suffering from brain trouble, but there is no doubt it was typhoid although there were many peculiarities about the case, he had the characteristic spots on the abdomen + the bowels were loose at first.

The temperature reached 105° on the 22nd of August + was about the normal from

the 3rd of September until he got up. He was very delirious at night during the 1st week & besides talking nonsense tried to get out of bed to go home, so that he had to be constantly watched.

He did not have any haemorrhage from the bowel, but on Aug. 29th had severe nose bleeding & twice during September he had the same symptom, his condition of mind became better after the fall of the temperature, but on getting up besides the weakness which was to be expected he complained of great stiffness of all the muscles of the legs & arms.

This patient also had an enlarged spleen which was especially noticeable when he became emaciated & the edge could easily be felt through the abdominal wall. He was discharged well on the 21st of September.

One rather troublesome complication in the case of Alice Headlam was bed sore the skin was kept hardened by a solution of alcohol + with Zinc Ointment proved of great service in treating this condition.

The evacuations were examined carefully daily + when there was any solid curd the milk was alkalised by adding a powder containing, Sod. Bicarb. Pot Bicarb + Sod Chlorid of each 4 gr to each pint of milk.

The most frequent + dangerous complication was cardiac asthenia with hypostatic congestion of the lungs + for the relief of this hypodermic injections of Strychnine with the free use of stimulants was of great service.

Barley water flavoured with lemon was given for the relief of thirst + was continually asked for by all the patients

Practically the same prescription containing Carbolic Acid was used in all these cases, + was well tolerated

after the 1st few days & as seen by the charts, the temperature was never excessively high & the mixture certainly seemed to hold the diarrhoea in check & disinfect the motions which did not smell offensively, there was also very little hæmorrhage & all the cases became rapidly convalescent except Eliza Headlam (the only fatal case) & Alice Headlam who had a relapse, but afterwards made very good progress, so that in Carbolic Acid we have a very safe & efficient means of treating this disease.

Temperature charts relating to Alice, Eliza & George Headlam & George Brecht are enclosed with Thesis.

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