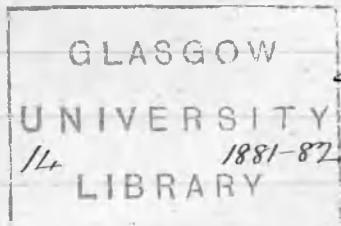


A fair attempt to give an account  
of personal experience.

Not much originality or research but  
may help.

W.B.

Pap.



April 1882

Memorial Notes of 16 Cases of Scarlet  
Fever.

Charles Pinkerton  
Southport  
Lane

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For several months, there have been a number of cases, of Scarlet Fever in Southport. As a rule the type has been mild; though severe and even fatal cases have been present in a considerable proportion.

Before its introduction here, <sup>so it was</sup> it was prevalent for some time in Liverpool. By the kindness of Dr Vernon, [Medical Officer of Health in Southport,] the writer is able to state that it was imported from Liverpool. After its introduction here, the disease became less severe in type, <sup>as due to</sup> probably to the excellent sanitary condition in which Southport now is.

From September 1881, when I began, until January 1882, the writer had in his practice 16 cases, in all of which a favourable termination was obtained. The majority were mild and uncomplicated, but several interesting cases occurred.

In one case, which began with an attack of *haryngismus shutatus*, an endocardial murmur supervened about the 4<sup>th</sup> day; in another the first symptom present was a convulsion. In two cases the temperature exceeded 103; the highest found <sup>in fact</sup> being 106. Rheumatism of the joints was comparatively common, but in no case in which <sup>#</sup> it occurred was the heart affected. There was only one case of desquamative nephritis, but in that case a severe fit of eclampsia supervened. The case, however, was not under

2

treatment until the appearance of the dysentery  
A description will just be given, of the symptoms  
present, and the treatment adopted, in the majority,  
after which details from notes taken at the bed-  
sides, will be afforded of some of the more  
severe cases.

Vomiting was universally present on the first day, and nausea, chilliness succeeded by fever  
headache, lassitude, slight uneasiness of the  
throat, thirst and anorexia were very general  
on that day. In only one case did the vomiting  
persist beyond the first few days. Unusual  
drowsiness and rigors were not at all common.  
The pulse and temperature did not, except in the  
grave cases, present that extraordinary and  
unusual pulse which is one of the most characteristic  
symptoms of this fever. A pulse of 124°  
and a temperature of 105° were however noted on the  
first day. In one case a rise of several degrees  
took place in a few hours.

On the second day, with only one exception in  
which it was never present, the rash made its  
appearance. It was always first noted on the  
inside of the arms, chest and thighs. In the  
majority it was scanty and was confined to  
these places, but in several it spread over the  
abdomen and the loins together with the  
legs & arms. Where the hands were affected  
swelling and stiffness due to infiltration  
of the integument, were noted. Contrary to the  
statements of several of the ten books the  
face was never affected with the rash, though  
it was sometimes irregularly flushed.

In the majority it was only present as a few red papules completely isolated from each other, but in several it became quite unusual, so that the skin presented the appearance <sup>more or less</sup> of a boiled lobster. The arrangement was irregular in character on the trunk, but on the arms and legs was much more uniform. Military vessels were rare and neither bullock nor pette <sup>or</sup> ~~or~~ they were ever present. Where scanty it began to fade by the 4<sup>th</sup> day and was almost gone by the 5<sup>th</sup>, but where well marked it continued to develop until about the 6<sup>th</sup> day.

Concurrently with the rash the throat symptoms developed.

In every case in the first few days the tongue was coated in the centre, and through the fur the enlarged lymphoid papillæ could as a rule be detected. The tip and edges presented at the same time the usual red appearance. In the very mild cases the fur cleared and the tongue became normal, in cases more severe it presented for some time the "strawberry" appearance, while in the gravest cases it became dry and brown. Considerable swelling and congestion of the soft palate, pillars of the fauces, tonsils and uvula were present in the majority, and while ulcerous the tonsils occurred in several, in no case was sloughing present. The impressed secretion on the tonsils presented sometimes almost the look of a false membrane. The salivary glands were not seriously involved but in one or two cases the scrotal and bubo was present.

4

how many? out of 6 -

In only a few instances was the nasal secretion much increased, but in one it was very profuse and acrid, excoriating the upper lip.

Sordes on the lips and gums were only present in the grave cases.

In no case was there any serious affection of the lungs, but the respiration was always somewhat accelerated.

The urine in the early stage was scanty and high coloured. Albumen was detected early in one case, but the writer regrets that the urine of every case was not examined ~~at half a week~~. In the older text books diarrhoea and an excreted anus are mentioned as of common occurrence. They owed their origin to the system of purging then in vogue. The bowels were as a rule constipated, but were easily regulated by simple aperients.

In a very considerable proportion of cases, more or less delirium was present at nearly all intervals, but attention was paid to the remark of Heberden, who stated "There is no disease in which the patient is more apt to be delirious and with less danger than scarlet fever".

In about a week when the pulse & temperature were almost normal, the rash subsided, and the swelling of the throat almost gone, desquamation began. It has often been noticed that in cases where the rash is well marked the fever high the desquamation begins early & occurs in large patches; on the other hand in mild cases it begins much later & takes place in small pieces.

Good illustration was afforded of this point, from one or two severe cases, they began on the 4<sup>th</sup> day before the rust had reached its acme, and proceeded at a rapid rate. In some of the milder cases it did not begin until the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week and proceeded very slowly.

It may not be of much use here, that there is probably a desquamation of epithelium of the stomach and intestines, just as in the case of the skin, since there is such evidence that the tongue desquamates.

It may also be inferred that the cells lining the tubules of the kidneys are cast off in a similar manner. The fact that nephritis is most common from the 14<sup>th</sup> until the 21<sup>st</sup> day admits of a double explanation. The skin while desquamating is unusually susceptible to cold, which checks its action, thereby throwing it back on the kidneys; as they themselves are probably desquamating at the same time, they are very liable to inflammation with the excretion.

The importance of an early differentiation of specific fevers demands that something more should be said of the 4 most characteristic initiating symptoms. These symptoms are vomiting, sore throat, the extreme frequency of the pulse and rapid augmentation of temperature.

It has already been stated that the pulse and temperature presented the characteristic rapid pulse only in the severer cases, so that in the milder cases where the difficulty of

forming the diagnosis on the first day was greatest, these symptoms were not available for that purpose. Slightness & swelling of the throat were very general on the first day, even in the milder cases, but the greatest reliance was placed on the vomiting which was unusual. In one case only did the vomiting persist, while as a rule it began to cease on the second or third day.

Though the severity of the subsequent attack was in some degree measured by the intensity of vomiting, yet the rule was seen to be not without marked exceptions.

Dr Fenwick's recent researches throw light on the probable causation of the vomiting. His researches go to prove that a primary effect of the poison of Scarlet Fever is suddenly and powerfully to stimulate the cell growth of the various secreting organs. Brunton in his Diseases of the Stomach observes on this point - Post Mortem examination in fatal cases of Scarlet Fever, while I have died from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> day, will often show that the inflammatory exudation - seen on the tongue and fauces extends through nearly the whole of the digestive canal, and is most distinct in the stomach, where the casting off of patches or sheets of false membrane is often accompanied by a scanty hemorrhage of purulent blood. It will be noticed how very general the exudation is and how it is most distinct in the stomach. In these fatal cases no doubt, the cell growth is much greater than commonly occurs, still the special tendency to affect the stomach in

all cases may be inferred.

The vomiting of Scarlet Fever has therefore to begin as a semi-acute gastritis, manifested as a rule only by the hirsute nausea and vomiting, but occasionally also in addition by epigastric pain and uneasiness.

The early affection of the kidneys, lately shown to be so common, owes its origin no doubt to the same stimulation of cell growth.

Though somewhat out of place, I may be here remarked that the period of incubation was accurately known in only 5 cases. The longest was 6 days and the shortest only three.

In no case were any distinctive symptoms present during the period of incubation.

+ how known? a little detail here would be not amiss. We can't afford to take a mere ipse dixit on a point like this.

## Treatment

was strictly expectant. If the vomiting was severe, effervescent salines or bisulphite were given, and very simple diet only was allowed. It was thought as the stomach was suffering from some acute gastritis, the best medicine for the first few days, was as much rest as possible. When the appetite returned in a few days, the diet was gradually improved. The statement has been made that patients who are well fed during convalescence are more liable to nephritis & the other complications. Greater importance was however placed to warmth and flannel clothing and the confinement of all patients in one or two rooms until desquamation had entirely ceased. To this latter fact the writer thinks the freedom from nephritis is due. It was only however with difficulty, that patients who had only been in bed for a few days, were persuaded that confinement to the house was necessary. This confinement is however in the milder cases the only important point in treatment.

The throat was treated by inhalation of hot water, gargles, and compressed tablets of Knobell of Potash; where ulcerated a solution of permanganate of Potash was applied with a brush. In several instances small pieces of ice gave relief, but in the writer's own case, the inhalation of steam afforded most relief.

Locally an ointment of Belladonna & glycerine was rubbed on the skin.

and over this large linsed poultices were applied. Not only does the poultice relieve at the moment of application, but belladonna, which is concreed, moderates the inflammation and prevents the tendency to suppuration. Even in severe cases, improvement was manifested, under this treatment, by the third day. The poultice frequently renewed soothes the intolerable pain and allows the patient to obtain sleep.

To relieve the burning sensation caused by the dry hair & skin leech sponging was freely allowed. By this means the nervous system of the patient is soothed, sleep is obtained and a good night secured. Even when the patient was occurring daily, good night's sleep was only too common, and after one or two restless nights it was almost universal. Heberden's asthma was borne in mind and beyond an occasional dose of Brumide of Potash to secure sleep nothing whatever was done. It is very apparent that no short fever with even a high temperature, delirium will be of common occurrence, and in view of the early defervescence, will not as a rule prove dangerous.

With regard to the drugs employed small doses of hyg. Ammon. Acetate were very generally given with the effect of relieving the extreme dryness of the skin to some extent. At present Carbuncle of Ammonia is highly lauded by Ringer and others. It was given in severe cases at the beginning,

and always when the pulse became at once frequent & very full, in several of these latter the pulse began at once to improve under its use. Given in several severe cases where the rust was well marked the temperature began to fall on the second day. The fall was always slight still I was distinct. It was also once a twice combined with aconite with a similar result. The temperature fell slightly, the skin became moist, the patient became less restless and sleep was obtained, by which the tendency to delirium was checked. It is not probable that aconite or carbonate of Ammonia have any direct influence over the specific fevers. They determine to the skin, so the nervous system produce sleep. Thus reduce the fever indirectly. Aconite perhaps <sup>in addition</sup> has some control over the inflammatory complications.

The temperature of scurvy, as is well known, differs from that of small pox, in resuming with the ~~development~~ <sup>appearance</sup> of the rust. In cases where the ammonia was not given it did not begin to fall until the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> day at the earliest, but where it was exhibited the fall though slight began on the second; and it is to be remembered that it was only given in the graver cases where the temperature was high & the throat much swollen & sometimes ulcerated. As aconite was only given with the ammonia nothing can be said as to its separate action in the fever.

While disposed to regard the administration of Carbonate of Ammonium with favour in suitable cases, the writer thinks that there is a great tendency to degrade it into a routine. Dr Scott under its use "did not lose one patient in nearly 300 cases." Many of these cases were doubtless benefited by its use, but it is impossible not to believe that it was given by him unnecessarily in a large number. No doubt it is unfortunately necessary always to give something in private practice, but little something may easily be more agreeable than carbonate of Ammonium. The point is of practical importance in England at least, where there can be no doubt a large measure of the success claimed by the Homoeopaths, is due to the ease with which their medicines can be taken.

Cold baths, even with a temperature of 106 were not given in view of the insuperable objections entertained to their use here. Where the rust was scanty warm baths were frequently given to aid its development, and tepid sponging was often used to allay the burning caused by a dry and harsh skin. The subject of the administration of alcohol has been postponed until the point because it was only given in one case, in which very marked debility was present. So much was this the case that the child was totally unable to swallow and had to be fed thro' the nose. In that case a tea-spoonful of brandy every two hours helped to save the child's life. Alcohol was withheld, even in cases where considerable weakness was present, for two

reasons; firstly because of the short duration of the fever, and secondly because all the cases occurred in children and young people wholly unaccustomed to its use. Where <sup>sweat</sup> weakness was present my reliance was placed on the cathartic of Ammonia and a richer diet than was generally allowed. In these cases strong soups & beef tea replaced the milk diet in general use during the first week.

Note. It has been said that even with a temperature of 106° cold baths were not given, in view of the strong objections entertained to their use here. Any further use, the writer intended to treat with cold baths, however. The objection to cold baths, extends also to the application of ice-cloths to the abdomen; they are both supposed here to drive the fever in.

Every case was as far as poss. isolated at the top of the house, and the most thorough antiseptic precautions were taken.

When desquamation began Camphor Oil or Glycerine was rubbed all over the body once a day, to hasten the desquamation and to prevent its occurring in the form of a dry scurf.

## Case of T. A.

This child was first seen by the writer on the 10<sup>th</sup> October shortly after the occurrence of a fit of eclampsia, consequent to an attack of desquamative nephritis.

The history of the case was only imperfectly learned, from his grandmother, (Mrs B) with whom he was residing.

T. A. aged 6 was a delicate boy, and had been sent to Southport some months before for his health. Mrs B said at first that the child had been quite well until the day before, but on being minutely questioned admitted that he had a slight headache <sup>he was seen</sup> about 6 weeks before.

So little was the child affected that he was never confined to bed though kept indoors for a few days. He soon seemed, however to be all right again and for several weeks had been playing on the sands with other boys.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> October his bowels were rather relaxed, and his face and legs slightly swollen; nevertheless he had been out of doors on that day which was cold & wet. It may be remarked that the weather had become much colder, for several days before the 10<sup>th</sup>.

From the description given it seems to have been general in character, affecting the whole muscular system, and during its continuance ~~more~~ probably was produced.

When seen first the most striking feature was the anaesthesia present. This was universal but was most marked on the face, the legs and the scrotum, which was largely distended.

The child lay in a semi-comatose condition and could only be roused with difficulty.

Skin was dry and cold, pulse weak, and the pupils were observed to be dilated and not contracted; they showed some slight sensitivity to light. The patient was made to protrude his tongue with difficulty and it was found to be thickly coated with a yellow fur. Physical examination showed slight dulness of both lungs and a sub crepitant could be heard both back & front. There was no hydrothorax. He was said to have had a slight cough for a few days.

He had passed two ounces of urine that morning, which was examined during the course of the day. It presented the appearance of men's washings and was almost solid when boiled for albumen. By the microscope, free blood corpuscles, blood casts, epithelial casts & renal epithelium distinguished by its globular character, were detected.

The child was dry cuffed & mustard poultices were applied to the lower bases of the lungs. A mixture containing acetate of Potash and Digitalis was ordered every 4 hours, and a powder of 10 grs of the Compound Powder of Jalap, and 30 grs of Bitartrate of Potash was directed to be taken at once. The diet allowed was milk, diluted with plenty of cold water, and

The child was removed to the lot of the house, a sheet wet with Condys fluid hung across the door, the fire lighted and an extra blanket indeed.

The child was again seen in the evening

when his condition was found to be very much the same. He had been roused to take the powder, which was immediately vomited up, and the acetate of Potash in my turn had been forced down with a like result. A little milk and water had been retained with difficulty.

Hearing that great difficulty was experienced in getting the child to take the medicine and considering also that he had been sick immediately after its administration, and that he seemed more drowsy than in the morning, it was determined to use the hydrochloric injection of pilocarpine. It availed nothing to force a solution,  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr was injected. In about 2 or 3 minutes sweating began of the most profuse character, indeed so much was this the case, that at the very morning I am reported, that his night dress was completely soaked, and had to be changed.

First flushing and then fall of the ~~acetate~~  
~~water~~, the pulse was observed to quicken. The salivation was secreted freely, and the watery eyes and running at the nose were also noted. No immediate effect on the cough was detected, but very I day though looser, it was rather more frequent. The injection did not produce at any time headache or giddiness.

The Bowels not having been moved that day, an enema was ordered to be used in the morning if necessary.

11<sup>th</sup> Morning. Child seemed better, was not so drowsy. He had slept fairly well, and had retained some milk & water, but was sick twice.

The dropsy of the face and legs was slightly diminished, but the scrotum was quite as much swollen; and the cough had been rather more troublesome. Shably before this it he had passed water, the first time in  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours, to the extent of 3 ounces; which was similar to that examined the day before. The bowels had been moved without the <sup>was</sup> enema.

An Alkaline hypodermic injection was given, and the poultices were repeated over the loins; in addition one was placed over the stomach to allay sickness.

At milk time about 2 pints were ordered in the  $\frac{3}{4}$  hours.

Evening. Slight improvement in dropsy was manifested. He had only been sick once and had taken freely of milk water. The cough continued rather troublesome.

Physical examination showed that the edema of the lungs was still present.

The pulvocaprine was again given, and 10 grs of Pulo. Salapoe Co were ordered to be taken in milk.

12<sup>th</sup> Morning. Seemed much better. The swelling of the face and legs was greatly diminished, but the scrotum did not show any great change. He had not been sick again, and had taken freely of milk water. Bowels were moved once, and about half a pint <sup>had</sup> of urine had just been passed. For two days before he had only passed 5 ounces.

It was now much clearer in appearance though still smoky, and the quantity of albumen was <sup>still</sup> considerable. The cough was still troublesome, so much so that his gran dm others wished for a cough mixture but they could get none in alarm.

Showed that the oedema of the lungs was diminishing. The injection again used, and as the appetite was now much improved, and the sickness had ceased, a little bread was allowed with the milk.

Evening. Urine had been voided to the extent of 2 pints since morning, and was much clearer. Pilocarpine not given, but the diet was continued as before.

13<sup>th</sup> Morning. Drsy. Urine & legs almost gone, and that of the scutum much less. It continued steadily to diminish and was quite gone by the 16<sup>th</sup>. The urine continued to be very fully voided, but albumen was still present as a considerable haze.

The cough at last began to improve, and as was to be expected the oedema of the lungs at the same time diminished & now ceased.

With the milk, potatoes, and bread and butter puddings were now all well.

The next day, the improvement continuing, meat, eggs & a mixture containing In Lemi Perchloridi were given.

Faint traces of desquamation were still visible, and for this as usual, Carbolic Oil was given.

His progress was uninterrupted, but there could be detected in about a week a faint haze of albumen in the urine, after allowing it to stand some time after boiling. This however ultimately quite disappeared.

Cases of this kind are only too common. A very mild case, in which the child is not at any time confined to bed is followed by a most severe complication. The occurrence of nephritis early 6 weeks after the emplum is rather later than is usual, but shows the value of the rule adopted in all cases; i.e., the patient was never allowed to leave one or two selected rooms until the designation had entirely ceased.

With regard to convulsions in acute Bright's, their exact causation may be said to be still unsettled. It is not probable that all cases are due to one cause. Some may be due to an incomplete metamorphosis of nitrogenous waste into urea, while most are probably owing to a poisoning by urea whether as such or consequent to its conversion into carbonate of ammonia.

Others again probably owe them to an anaemia of the neuroglia of the brain produced by oedema. It is well known that in this disease serous effusion occurs readily into the various internal organs. A dropsey of the connective tissue of the brain may readily therefore take place. The frequency and rapidity with which patients emerge from a cymatise state by an effluent purge or a profuse diarrhoea favours the latter theory. In chronic Bright's, where with scanty dropsey convulsions occur, their causation must be due to uremia in all cases.

In this case the convulsion & semi-comatose condition were attributed to the dropsey of the neuroglia in several reasons; the first was the state of the pupils. In renal

disease where no movement occurs, the pupils are as a rule contracted, here however they were widely dilated; it may be however that during life they were contracted, and that they dilated afterwards. In post partum haemorrhage as is well known immediately before death, in many cases, the pupils dilate, and hysterical spasms or convulsions occur. In these cases there can be no doubt that the dilatation and convulsions owe their origin to the anaemia of the brain, produced by the bloodless state of the patient.

It is quite admitted, that with our present knowledge of the effect produced on the pupils by cerebral disease, too much importance cannot be attached to the dilatation. In many of the cases of apoplexy the pupils are contracted without doubt, but in them the haemorrhage is into the pons. Taken as a whole dilatation of the pupil is one of the pressure signs.

In the second place there was the evidence that the disease affected the lungs, and the inference, considering that fact, together with its extensive external manifestation, might be drawn that the heart also was affected.

Thirdly, the appearance of the convulsions was so early that there could not have been much urea in the system hardly there was no urea or urine detected in the heart respiration or vomit.

With regard to the importance of convulsions in renal disease, in children, it is well known that they are not so severe as in the adult.

It may be that a lesser degree of anæmia, or a smaller quantity of poison is sufficient to produce a convulsion in them. In 12 cases under treatment by West, I recollect, and in 13, particulars of which are collected by M. Rilliet, 10 had a favourable termination. In this case there was only one, but had there been others, increasing as is usual in seventy, a fatal result might easily have ensued. With regard to treatment. The diet was such as to limit the production of urea and creatine as much as possible, animal food being shrewdly interdicted for several days. The milk was largely diluted with water, and it was hoped, in the words of Dr. West that a pint of cold water would form a useful adjunct to treatment. At the end of a week beef tea, strong soup & eggs were given freely. With regard to the drugs generally used in acute nephritis; in England there is still a strong tendency to reject the use of diuretics, owing no doubt to the negative remarks of Brugui. Dr. G. Johnson remarks, "there has been, just, a morbid condition of the blood, which has excited disease in the kidney. Our double object must therefore be to rest the affected glands, while we purify the blood by means of the other excretory organs.

Christison in 1839 observed that "diuretics do not increase the coagulability of the urine in the early stage; in many instances they appear to diminish it." Dickenson, noticing the fact that the solid cylinders are blocking the tubules, advised the use of diuretics, especially digitalis, and said that

The patient I should drink largely of water and take fluid nourishment.

The writer has seen a few cases treated without diuretics, by charcoal purgatives, cathartics & warm baths, and does not think the results so good, as those obtained from their use.

It was intended to heal this case by diuretic doses of acetate of Potash in combination with digitalis, together with the occasional use of a Compound Powder of Jalap. The obstinate sickness after every dose of the medicines compelled their discontinuance. Having seen benefit from the use of fat pilocarpine in two cases of Bright's Disease about a year before, it was employed.

In this case it produced very profuse sweating, after which the child recovered somewhat from his semi-emaciate condition. In addition saturation watering of the eyes, increase of the nasal secretion, resulted in a slight degree from its use. Next to the sweating its most marked effect however was on the Bronchial Secretion which was considerably augmented as evinced by the tritulation cough. After its discontinuance the cough improved rapidly, but at the same time the oedema of the lungs was being absorbed.

It seemed to have a slight narcotic effect, but did not contract the pupils. On being asked when no longer chorously, if headache or giddiness resulted from its use patient said no. The vomiting was certainly not increased by its use, but as it is now advocated by some to arrest sweating, it may yet be found useful in sickness.

The writer has used it himself in three cases

of acute nephritis & seen I employed in several others, in all of which apparent benefit was derived from its use. He thinks however that it might not be supersede diuretics in common cases, but should be reserved for those in which sickness is obstinate, as in this; or where the patient is in a fit a ~~semum~~ atore condition and can only be aroused to take medicines with difficulty. It is much easier given than a warm vapour bath and there can be no danger from cold in its use. To give a vapour bath to a patient suffering from nephritis in private practice is not always easy.

In certain exceptional cases it will be found therefore of great use, and in all cases its occasional administration may be useful adjunct to treatment.

Pontices & dry cupping were also employed more as a matter of routine, than from any great faith in their efficacy.

## Case of R. 17

This case was peculiar in its onset and during its progress, as no complication was detected.

R. 17 is aged 7 and is one of a family marked by a strong tendency to attacks of haynnesmus. Shudders in child hood. Several of the other children beyond 10 years of age have ceased to have these attacks, but R. 17 is still liable to them. It may be remarked that there is no very enlargement of the thymus to account for this strong family tendency, which does not cease until the children attain an age of nearly 10 years of age.

On being summoned on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup> Sept at 5 A.M. it was found he had just emerged from an attack. A simple aperient mixture was ordered. He was seen at 10 A.M. and was found to be better, but his skin seemed hot and feverish. The temperature was 99.2.

In the evening he was found to have been sick several times during the day. There was a little cough present, and the tongue was slightly coated. The aperient mixture had been taken twice and his bowels were freely moved. Careful physical examination detected no

thirst. Pulse 90. Temp 100. 1.

Milk & rice only allowed. A poultice was ordered for the epigastrium, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  gr of oxalate of cinchon in full was given every 4 hours.

28<sup>th</sup> Morning. The sickness was found to have continued. Temperature 99.8.

Pills & poultice continued

Evening. Sickness slightly better, but

appetite quite gone. Pulse 100 Temperature 100.6 It was now evident from the sickness, and temperature that there was something more than hury myismus stimulus present, and Scarlet fever, from the symptoms and its prevalence was suspected. On minute inspection of the body there were found a few small papules on the inner surface of the upper arm; the throat was also examined and found to be quite normal. There were none of the other usual initiating symptoms present. Mrs K was advised that the child had a mild attack of scarlet fever; the other children were ordered from home and the usual antiseptic precautions were taken.

29<sup>th</sup> Morning. He was found to have passed rather a restless night had been slightly delirious. The eruption which was very scanty, was found to affect the chest to a slight extent. The tongue was clean and seeming normal but thirst and anorexia still were present, while the throat continued entirely free.

On the previous evening no change had been made in the treatment, the ordinary serum pills being continued for the sickness and nothing else being given. A warm bath had been given however to debr. the rust.

30<sup>th</sup> Morning. He was found to have had another restless night, and delirium was again present. The throat was now a little swollen, the tongue cleaning, the appetite improved slightly but sickness still present. Temperature 100.5 Evening He has had a restless day and now complains of pain in the cardiac region, but there is no change in his other symptoms. On examination the first sound over the

ankle cartilage was found to be rough and pustulated. Pulse 105 & temperature 101.4  
 October 1<sup>st</sup> Morning He has been very restless indeed during the night. He was in much the same state. complaining of his sickness, and the cardiac pain which he said was in his stomach. On examination the roughness and pustulations of the sound were found to be still present.

The pulse & sickness were continued milk and rice only allowed, and a poultice (linseed) was ordered to be applied over the heart. He was further ordered to be very still in bed. The temperature had now gradually risen to 102.3 The pulse which was between 110 & 120 was becoming weaker.

Evening. This was now the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> day and the throat <sup>was nearly well</sup> and eruption quite gone. The temperature was however now 102.4 The pulse nearly 120. The continued rise in the pulse and temperature, in such a mild case, together with the cardiac pain and pustulation of the sound [a murmur could not be said to be as yet present] showed that there was some heart mischief. A consultation was therefore arranged for the next morning, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. He had again been restless & delirious during the night, and very little sleep was obtained. In consultation with Dr Shaw, the heart was again examined and a distinct U.S murmur was heard. It was most distinct over the ankle cartilage, but could be heard also at the apex. It also extended down the right side of the sternum <sup>scapula</sup> to the scapular cartilage, and was carried

into the arteries of the neck, with diminished distinctness; it could not however be heard at the angle of the scapula.

Since the application of the practice, the cardiac pain was relieved, but the sickness though improved was not cured.

Temperature was 102.6. The pulse 120, and much weaker.

A myrtle containing Carbonate of Ammonium in 3 gr doses was ordered, and a blister the size of half a crown was put over the seat of the greatest intensity of the murmur evening. The blister was found to have risen well, and had caused a good deal of pain. The heart could not now be auscultated over the arabe cataphract, but near the lower end of the sternum. The murmur was heard as in the morning.

The blister was repeated on the 7<sup>th</sup> and I added of Potassium was on that day substituted for the ammonia which seemed to increase the sickness, and also because the pulse was slower and stronger.

The temperature, the highest point of which was 102.6 began to fall on the 4<sup>th</sup> and in about a week was normal. The pulse also became slower, but for several weeks, I averaged about 80.

The blistering prevented the murmur from being heard for some time, but on the 10<sup>th</sup> it was not nearly so loud; from that date it gradually diminished and when he left home about the middle of November I was quite gone.

The child began to feel about the 20<sup>th</sup> October, and in this as usual carbolic oil was prescribed during his convalescence the sickness, which had never entirely ceased, became more & worse; the Tincture of Potassium which he had still been taken was given up and various medicines given, but the only one ~~at~~ whose administration gave relief was the tincture Pepticus of Benyer.

He left home about the middle of November and has just (7<sup>th</sup> January) returned. The sickness has now quite ceased. Repeated examination has failed to detect any trace of the murmur.

Remarks. In this case of S. Simplex, the haemoptysis & stridor may have been due to the poison acting on a system predisposed to these attacks, or it may merely have been a coincidence.

The heart murmur was no doubt organic. There was also here no palpitation, nor vibratory thrill to be felt, but there was a certain amount of cardiac uneasiness; in addition to which the pulse and temperature did not fall as they ought, about the 5<sup>th</sup> day. Indeed the murmur itself presented a functional character. It began as a roughness and prolongation of the 1<sup>st</sup> sound and after a few days slowly diminished.

It did not present any variation in its point of greatest intensity, but I may be said always to have been best heard over the upper cartilage and down the right side of the sternum. It may however be urged against its organic character, that it was not firm anent, but it is well known that such murmurs due to

granulations produced by endocardial inflammation, do occasionally disappear. Endocarditis in the cattle rubber ran, though rare and it has been occasionally noticed. Indeed nearly 40 years ago Dr Scott Alison wrote an essay on Pericarditis as a complication and sequella of Scarlet Fever.

The Carbuncle of Ammonia was given simply because the pulse was becoming weak; it was at one time lauded in endocarditis from its supposed power of preventing the deposition of fibrin.

Schmidt's observations, to some extent forecasted by Dr A. Buchanan have shown that Richardson's views as to the origin of fibrin are erroneous, besides which the granulations in endocarditis are produced by inflammation of the deeper layers of the endocardium, and are not formed by the deposited fibrin from the blood.

The following is a tabular form of the temperature in this case.

	Morning	Evening
Sept 27	99.2	100.1
28	99.8	100.6
29	101	Not taken
30	101.5	101.9
Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	102.3	102.4
2	102.6	102.4

From the 2<sup>nd</sup> October there was a gradual fall.

### Case of R. K.

He is the brother of R. P. and is aged 2 years. Mrs K could not be induced to part with him, when she sent her daughters from home & so he was soon attacked. His was a case of Scarletina Anginosa, in which there was much swelling and ulceration of the throat, with a bubo in the neck. A saturation of perming anale of Plat was applied on a small piece of sponge to the throat, which was also cleaned with hot water. Belladonna and Fomtree were applied externally. There never was the slightest rust, but desquamation took place much as usual. The entire absence of rust, has caused this short mention of his case, because his sister who was next attacked, had the most perfect rust the writer has ever seen.

### Case of M. K.

This girl, aged 13, is the sister of the patients in the 2 former cases. She had been sent from home whenever R. K. was attacked, and did not return back until the 4<sup>th</sup> of January 1882, which was a period of more than 3 months on the absence. After the recovery of the two former cases the rooms had been entirely disinfected, all linen and blankets washed in antiseptic solution. The bedding and all other clothes which could not be washed had been sent to the town's fever hospital to be fumigated in the hot air apparatus.

Mrs H also about the 1<sup>st</sup> of January had gone to another house. It therefore seemed that there could not be the slightest danger in her <sup>daughter's</sup> return home, yet 3 days after, the disease began again.

On the morning of the 7<sup>th</sup> January she awoke with a swollen throat, and soon afterwards began to be sick, and complained of a headache. Together with pains in the back and limbs. The pulse was not taken in until the evening, and on his arrival found her complaining of headache, sore throat and sickness. Her tongue was thickly coated with a yellow fur, and the tonsils were already much swollen. Her temperature was not taken but the pulse was 140. Her skin was flushed and felt burning hot, and already there were to be seen on the inside of the arms one or two small vesicles.

Milk and ice were ordered. No internal medicine was given as the sickness <sup>was</sup> so intense, but a gruel of Chinalate of Potash was prescribed, and a linseed poultice, and the belladonna ointment were applied externally; in addition to all of which a poultice was placed over the stomach wallay if possible the sickness, and directions were given that she should take a leped bath.

8<sup>th</sup> January. Morning. At this visit she was found to have passed a very restless night, during which delirium of a violent kind had been present. On examination the throat was seen to be much swollen, it was noted that the swelling was bright red and not dusky in character. The rust was already beginning all over the upper arms and trunk, and the pulse was still

140, but already much softer and more compressible  
 + The temperature had risen slightly, and was 103.7  
 The diet was continued as before, but as the recklessness  
 was somewhat abated and the temperature so high  
 a mixture of carbonate of ammonia and small doses  
 of acornite was ordered. A cold sponge was used  
 to allay the burning heat of the skin.

Evening. She seemed weaker. The temperature was  
 however slightly less 103.5, but the pulse was rather  
 more <sup>than</sup> 130. It was already becoming small and  
 was very compressible

9<sup>th</sup> Morning. The temperature has again fallen, and  
 so has the pulse. The former was 103.2 and the  
 latter 120, but smaller and weaker. The rest was  
 continuing to develop, and was by this time almost  
 universal. The throat was now so much swollen  
 that the larynx almost met in the ~~beginning~~ middle  
 and great difficulty was experienced in getting  
 her to swallow <sup>a weak solution of</sup>.  
 A sponge dipped in Coudé's fluid was passed to  
 the back of the throat, and this was indeed to be  
 done several times during the day.

Beef tea and strong soup were now ordered, and  
 a teaspomful of brandy, in a little water every  
 two hours, was given.

The Acornite was omitted from the prescription,  
 and the carbonate of ammonia given alone  
 evening. She was found to be in much the same  
 state. The temperature was 104.4 the pulse 130  
 but so weak that it could only be counted with difficulty.  
 The bowels had been moved in the 7<sup>th</sup> and they  
 were again moved today, and the urine has been  
 very scanty and highly colored.

10<sup>th</sup> morning. The rash this morning was found to be unusual, so that the whole body except the face and neck presented a uniform red appearance. The face and neck were not at all affected with the rash but were covered with irregular blisters.

The throat was now found to be deeply ulcerated, and the secretion was profuse and purulent.

The general condition was worse. In so feeble was the pulse that I could not be counted. The feet and hands felt very cold, but the trunk, while it no longer presented but had a feeling of hunger heat, was moderately warm. The temperature had slightly risen and was 105°.

The nurse was urged to try to get her to take more nourishment, as she seemed to be sinking through weakness. The secretion from the throat was frequently cleared away with the sponge, and the belladonna ointment was thickly smeared over the outside of the throat.

3 P.M. No improvement had occurred and she had swallowed almost nothing since morning. Under the circumstances it was deemed necessary to feed her by the nose. Having obtained an ordinary glass tube from a common feeding bottle, it was inserted into the nostril about 5 inches, after the bent had been cut across at its widest. A cupful of milk & honey were easily given, but she was soon sick; this was probably due to the large quantity given. Fortunately the hained nurse was a most intelligent woman, and after she was once shown how to pass the tube, and allow drink to pass through it slowly, she could manage herself.

Orders were given, that only a little should be given at a time and by this means there was no return of the sickness. Milk, bread, soup and medicine were thus cautious by administered.

Evening. She was no worse. The temperature was  $104.2^{\circ}$ . And though the pulse was no stronger, yet the hands and feet were not so cold.

She has passed her water in bed to day, and is only seems ease.

Every night delirium has been present, and despite of weakness is occasionally violent.

11th Morning. She was rather better. The nurse had given her a considerable quantity of nourishment by the nose. The throat for the first time showed signs of improvement, and desquamation was already beginning in large patches at the groin and inside of the knees. There was a considerable fall in the temperature and the pulse could almost be felt. The temperature was  $102.6^{\circ}$ .

Evening. The improvement continued. The pulse could now be counted, and was 130. The temperature was  $101^{\circ}$ . She had swallowed a little once or twice by the mouth, but the most of the nourishment was still taken by the nose.

Her bowels were again moved to day, but she had asked in the bed pan. The urine was now for the first time examined and found to contain about a fourth albumen. No tube casts were detected, but renal (?) epithelium, also shed and disintegrated and probably in a state of fatty degeneration was seen; amorphous materials were present in abundance.

A draught of 20 grs of Bromide of Potash was given

12<sup>th</sup> Morning. She was found to be very drowsy, but the pulse was rather stronger. The temperature was now 100. <sup>The afternoon 120</sup> The rust was now daily growing less and soon was quite gone, and the throat was decidedly less swollen.

3 P.M. She was in much the same time, the drowsiness still continuing.

10 P.M. She was considerably better, and the drowsiness had quite passed off. She had swallowed several times by the mouth to day, and the tube was not again used. The tongue, which for several days had been dry and brown was now cleaning and the sides was clean off from the lips and gums.

On the morning of the 13<sup>th</sup> the temperature was 99.8, and in a day or two afterwards it soon became normal. She daily gained in strength, but it was soon evident that there was paralysis of both legs. In weeks no improvement was visible as regards the legs in spite of galvanism and strychnine. At the present time [14 March] nearly 10 weeks since her illness began, she can only just stand. She had during convalescence a slight attack of rheumatism, for which Salicylate of Soda was given with useful improvement.

It is at present proposed that she shall leave home in a few days, in the hope that the change will prove beneficial in the paralyses.

Remarks. In this case, an illustration is afforded of the manner in which Scartatini breaks out again, in spite of every precaution. Careful inquiry was made, as to the possibility of her having caught the infection elsewhere than

at home, but that did not seem at all likely. There was every probability that she had caught the infection somehow at home, and yet every precaution had been taken. The period of incubation was short; she came home on Wednesday, and she was attacked on Saturday.

It was a case of Scarletina Areinosa occurring in a weakly girl producing great and rapid weakness.

The question may be asked; did the aemetic cause the weakness to any extent whatever? The writer thinks not as she had only 5 doses with 3 min in each, as it was stopped on the morning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> day.

It will be noted that the temperature began to fall on the second day, though there was a good rust and much swelling of the throat. There was, however a slight rise on the evening of the 10<sup>th</sup>.

It was interesting to observe in this case, the changes in the pulse. She was not seen during the chill, if there was one. At the first visit the pulse was large, full and not easily compressed, - bounding. Next day, while still large, it became softer, compressible, and diastolic; shilly afterwards it was small and very compressible, lastly I was so weak, that I could not be counted for 2 days. The reverse of this was seen, when I began gradually to improve.

With reference to the tube passed into the nose. It was easily managed, and its use attended with great benefit, but the writer thinks ought to have been tried the day before.

The paralysis was no doubt due to an aemia of the child, due to the inefficient manner in

when the circulation was for a few days curtailed.  
In this strychnine was prescribed, and galvanism used early and persistently; then used for a few weeks however seemed of no avail, but within the last few days a distinct advance has been achieved.

The following gives, the course of the temperature in a fatal case from

### Morning

Jan. 7 <sup>th</sup>	
8	105°
9	105.2
10	104°
11	102.6
12	100°
13	99.8

### Evening

Not taken
105.5
104.2
103°
101°
Not taken

and in a few days, it was normal.

In a few days, her sister was also attacked with the fever. Her case was also a case of S. Argentina. The temperature on the morning of the second day was 106°, but began to fall at once. Her throat was not quite so much swollen, and she was thus always able to swallow a little, the consequence of which was that she was never so weak, as her sisters had been, and her recovery was much more rapid. She was allowed a generous diet, and the throat was treated in a similar manner. Carbonate of Ammonia and acmite were theraved as employed, and lepid sponging was frequently applied. Her case was very much like her sisters and fuller details need not be given, but the writer regrets

that her fever chart has been lost.

The Case of M.C. is only of interest because it was ushered in by a convulsion. Unlike the case of measles, convulsions in Scarlet Fever are rather rare. Bustow says, "Occasionally, in children, convulsions come on early in the disease; they are rare, however, than at the commencement of measles, or small pox, and are far more severe — indeed are generally followed by a fatal result."

The case of M.C. was a part from the convolution one of the mildest of the whole series; it ought however to be mentioned that in her family, there is a considerable tendency to convulsions in childhood.