

## **PUTRID FEVER—TYPHUS FEVER.**

This form of fever is characterized by great grossness. It is the camp, ship, jail, hospital, and mountain fever, of some authors; and includes what is known as yellow fever, bilious fever, and what many call typhoid fever.

**Symptoms.**—Putrid fever differs from nervous in that while the nervous form commences mildly, with only slight shiverings, the heat being scarcely above the natural temperature, the pulse small and only a little quickened, the putrid form commences suddenly and progresses rapidly, the chill is severe, the strength fails rapidly, the pulse is hard, small, quick, and fluttering, ringing in the ears, intense pain over the forehead and crown, with throbbing in the temples. The countenance has an anxious expression, and there will be delirium, followed by stupor. The breath is hot and offensive. The tongue is at first of a dark yellow, then of a brown or black, color, and finally it cracks; the lips turn dark and crack also. The evacuations from the bowels and bladder are dark and very offensive. As the disease progresses, purple spots appear on various parts of the surface, and the face is of a livid or dark-red color.

**Treatment.**—The patient must have an abundance of pure air, as purification is the principal requirement in this form of fever. The sick room must be kept quiet. In the early stages, the tepid wet-sheet-pack should be given daily, or cloths wet in tepid water should be spread over all parts of his body and limbs, and changed every ten minutes. The feet must be kept warm and the head cool, at all times. The danger in this disease is from diarrhea and inflammation of the bowels; therefore, at the first appearance of the disease, a copious enema of warm water should be administered, and cool or cold wet cloths should be constantly applied to the abdomen until all preternatural heat is removed. Hot fomentations over the bowels for twenty minutes, followed by cold compresses, are very useful after the diarrhea has set in.

In treating this fever, the rules for treating fever in general are applicable in all respects other than indicated above. The head-bath should be freely used.