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### A Common Palpable Error In Diagnosis And Treatment.

Written for the News by A. P. Latham, M. D., Elizabethtown.

Most doctors have always been kind, honest, honorable and self-sacrificing men. Nevertheless, an intolerance exists among them: 1st., Against instructing the public; 2nd., Against just criticism; 3rd., Against any idea at variance with their own. This opposition to public instruction is traditional—an heirloom of the dark ages, when ignorance was covered with mysticism. Although medicine is not an exact science today, and never will be, our present light enables us to share it with an intelligent public. While most people preserve a strange indifference in regard to knowledge of whatever pertains to the health of themselves and families, the interest in such matters is growing wonderfully, as is evidenced by the support given to an ever-increasing number of popular health journals. While the standard of medical education is being continually elevated in our medical colleges, there is so much taught which is of no practical use to the exclusion of facts which conduce to the patient's welfare. Theory is all right and text-books are necessary, but the doctor at the bedside of his patient must investigate and be his own judge and jury in matters so vitally important, oftentimes disagreeing the idol of authority. He must think for himself. Every location has its disease common to that section of country. Each season according to its atmospheric conditions develops certain diseases. The topography of the country is important in making a correct diagnosis, as is also the social customs and habits of life of the people. The water supply, presence of ponds and swamps, overflowing wells and springs, filthy cess pools and out-houses and pig pens, faulty diet, clothing unsuited to the season, exposures of all kinds, etc., etc., help to a correct diagnosis. La grippe, pneumonia and "typhoid" fever appear only under certain atmospheric conditions. Last summer "typhoid" fever and malarial troubles were conspicuous for their absence. There was a lack of humidity the air was of normal dryness. I kept a hygrometer and watched the state of the atmosphere from day to day. Winter a year ago the air was very dry and predisposed to pneumonia. There were a great many cases. Last winter the air was not so dry and as a result a grippé appeared but there was less pneumonia. This summer has been rainy and my hygrometer has shown an excessive humidity—water suspended in the air. As a result malarial and "typhoid" troubles appeared and are still present. The still-water ponds in this section, also overflowing springs and wells, under certain rain falls and the hot sun, along with decayed vegetation, contaminate the air and water to produce the majority of our summer fevers. There are no doubt filthy sources of infection, also, in our towns. The mosquito may, rarely, convey the infection from the sick to the well. With few exceptions the summer and fall fevers which we have are malarial in character. In the month of March, when atmospheric conditions are favorable, the chills appear; later come the intermittent type of malarial fever, characterized by a violent chill, fever and sweat,—the fever some times reaching 101 degrees, but the temperature falls with the sweat to normal. Next come the remittent type of malarial fever. It is a severe type of malarial disease, and the temperature never at any time becomes normal. This disease closely resembles typhoid fever. But the step-ladder temperature and pea soup stools peculiar to typhoid, are absent. Hemorrhages and other symptoms are similar to typhoid. The lesions are in the abdomen. The cestivo-antennal parasite can be found in the blood cells, the typhoid bacillus is absent. This remittent or cestivo-antennal fever is the slow fever which the doctors have misdiagnosed as "typhoid." Quinine is an absolute poison in this fever and is the drug which plays havoc with the patient—it maims or kills. If the patient lives through the quinine ordeal, the disease is only suppressed and it re-appears at another time. This is not the case when the disease has been properly diagnosed and properly treated.

Quinine had is the state of the dominant school of medicine to-day. The routine and indiscriminate use of the drug by most of these physicians, has induced many people to likewise abuse it by becoming habitual users. There is not the slightest indication for quinine in typhoid fever nor in the remittent type of malarial fever. It is positively contra-indicated. Quinine converts a mild fever into an exceedingly grave one, leaving the patient maimed by ill health if he or she happens to survive. Sufferers from chronic disease applying to me for treatment frequently remark, "I have not felt well since I had the fever." To anyone with a knowledge of the facts such a remark condemns the treatment which was given for the fever. The disease, instead of having been cured, has been suppressed. This is why they have it again and again. Other harmful drugs are included in the common treatment of these fevers. Antipyrine, acetanilid, phenacetin are powerful heart depressants. Their evil effects on the patient are then partly counteracted by strychnine and whiskey. These often fail to counteract and the patient dies. Even the strychnine and the whiskey are physiologically inimical to each other. Lastly, too strong and powerful bowel antiseptics are used. They add fuel to the fires of the fever and increase peristalsis favoring hemorrhage. When the latter happens, acetate of lead and opium are often resorted to, or morphine given. An iron constitution is necessary to survive the common treatment. Such treatment is responsible for the frightful mortality. Under proper treatment these diseases (1) are not serious enough to be feared (2) do not appear again in those who have had them (3) leave the system in a healthy condition.

Atwood P. Latham, M. D.  
Given Up to Die.

R. Spiegel, 1204 N. Virginia St., Evansville, Ind., writes: "For over five years I was troubled with kidney and bladder affections which caused me much pain and worry. I lost flesh and was all run down, and a year ago had to abandon work entirely. I had three of the best physicians who did me no good and was practically given up to die. Foley's Kidney Cure was recommended and the first bottle gave me great relief, and after taking the second bottle was entirely cured." Sold by A. R. Fisher.

**Breckenridge Election Board.**

Last Wednesday, at Frankfort, county election boards for the several counties of the State were selected by the State Election Commission to serve for the coming November election, with power to appoint the precinct officers to hold that office.

W. S. Curt, Democrat, and Chas. Blanford, Republican, composed the board selected for Breckenridge county.

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## Dr. Atwood P. Latham - Author

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