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TYPHOID FEVER.

BOARD OF HEALTH,
32 Pemberton Square,
Boston, December, 1882.

This circular is issued for the purpose of inducing greater care in preventing the spread of typhoid fever, which, according to the most reliable authority, may be contracted by contagion or infection. It is also supposed to be induced by the emanations from decayed animal and vegetable substances, foul drains, and other sources of filth.

The discharges from the bowels of the typhoid patient are supposed to be the source of the greatest danger, and may infect the atmosphere of the sick chamber, the drain, cesspool, vault, or by filtration may infect the well, cistern, or other source of drinking-water, and produce the disease in other persons.

The disease is most likely to attack persons between the ages of 5 and 40 years, and prevails more in the autumn than in any other season of the year.

When a case of typhoid fever occurs in any family, the sick person should be placed in a room apart from the other inmates of the house, and should be nursed, as far as possible, by one person only. The sick chamber should be well ventilated, warmed, and exposed to sunlight; its furniture should be such as will permit of cleansing without injury, and all extra articles, such as window and table drapery, woolen carpets, upholstered furniture and all hangings should be removed from the room during the sickness.

The physician and nurse, as a rule, should be the only persons admitted to the room.

All vessels used for receiving the discharges of the patient should constantly contain some disinfecting fluid. A five per cent. solution of chloride of zinc will be effectual, and without odor or stain. Such disinfectant should be used freely upon the discharges as soon as they are received into the vessel. Water closets, cesspools, and vaults ought to be disinfected daily with a solution of copperas, (2 lbs. to the gallon of water).

Every kind and source of filth in and around the house should be removed and disinfectants freely used. Drains should be put in perfect order and ventilated by a 4-inch straight pipe, extended above the highest point of the roof of the house in every instance, terminating at a distance from any chimney or other ventilator.

On the death or recovery of the patient, the room, bedding, and clothing should be thoroughly disinfected.

By order of the Board of Health,

SAMUEL H. DURGIN, M. D.,
Chairman.