

Period of infection of acute fevers.

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I have reported this case because traumatic aneurism of the temporal is not often met with, nor is traumatic aneurism generally produced by such a blunt edge as a stone. The object aimed at in the operation was to apply elastic pressure in such a manner as to cut through, or at least obliterate the supplying vessel, but so limited in its action as not to divide the skin. The elastic tube effectually met these requirements. Whether the vessel was divided or merely obliterated by the pressure it is, of course, impossible to say.

The track of the ligature did not suppurate, and no mark has been left.

CURRENT TOPICS.

PERIOD OF INFECTION OF ACUTE FEVERS.—We notice with pleasure the action of the Forfarshire Medical Association in attempting to give practical effect to the conclusions as to the periods during which the specific fevers remain capable of giving off infective particles. At a meeting held on 14th July the following Resolution was carried on the recommendation of a committee which had been appointed to consider the question:—"That the Association, having considered the desirability of promoting uniformity of practice amongst its members in their management of the infectious fevers, with respect to the period of time during which quarantine precautions should be maintained, recommends as follows:—
'When an infectious fever has appeared in one or more members of a household, other members who may have been exposed to the chance of infection by intercourse with them, or otherwise, should not be removed to a household where there are others liable to be infected until the expiry of the period of incubation shows that they have escaped. Without going to extremes, the period of incubation may, for practical purposes, be considered to be—for small-pox, typhus, hooping cough, measles, fourteen days; and scarlet fever and diphtheria, ten days.' That convalescents from these fevers should be considered as still liable to give off infection until the expiry of a period of time, counting from the beginning of the illness, ranging for each fever as stated below:—

DISEASE.	PERIOD OF INFECTION.
Hooping Cough,	8 weeks.
Scarlet Fever,	7 do.
Measles,	6 do.
Diphtheria,	6 do.
Typhus,	4 do.
Small-Pox,	14 days after disappearance of Scabs.

POEM WRITTEN BY DR. OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES FOR THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY DINNER OF THE MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY, 8TH JUNE, 1881, AND READ BY HIM ON THAT OCCASION.—Dr. Holmes said on rising:—In speaking of some of the trials to which the members of the three “learned professions” are exposed, I have not hesitated to emphasize those specially belonging to the medical profession. I owe to my friends the physicians so much more than the practice of medicine owes to me that I feel at liberty to praise their calling without reserve, but no more than I think its due.

THREE paths there be where Learning’s favoured sons,
 Trained in the schools which hold her favoured ones,
 Follow their several stars with separate aim ;
 Each has its honours, each its special claim.
 Bred in the fruitful cradle of the East,
 First, as of oldest lineage, comes the Priest ;
 The Lawyer next, in wordy conflict strong,
 Full armed to battle for the right,—or wrong ;
 Last, he whose calling finds its voice in deeds,
 Frail Nature’s helper in her sharpest needs.

Each has his gifts, his losses and his gains,
 Each his own share of pleasures and of pains ;
 No life-long aim with steadfast eye pursued
 Finds a smooth pathway all with roses strewed ;
 Trouble belongs to man of woman born,—
 Tread where he may, his foot will find its thorn.

Of all the guests at life’s perennial feast,
 Who of her children sits above the Priest ?
 For him the broidered robe, the carven seat,
 Pride at his beck, and beauty at his feet,
 For him the incense fumes, the wine is poured,
 Himself a god, adoring and adored !
 His the first welcome when our hearts rejoice,
 His in our dying ear the latest voice,