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Sept. 25, 1863  
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MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE,  
*Department of So. Ca., Ga. and Fla.* }  
Charleston, S. C., Sept 25th, 1863. }

The attention of Medical Officers in the field, is called to the following communication received from the Surgeon-General, relative to the value of "Oil of Turpentine as a remedy in Intermittent Fever."

I am instructed by him to direct, that "in view of the scarcity and price of Quinine, this substitute be employed as far as practicable. Satisfactory experiments having been instituted to show that the local application of this remedy has proved amply sufficient to interrupt the morbid chain of successive paroxysms; one application only being requisite in the majority of cases, whilst in the remaining ones it has proved fully successful in preventing the more serious stage of the paroxysm, viz., the chill."

"It is necessary to state, that the after-employment of Bitter Tonics, and also of the *Liq. Potassiae Arsenitis* is indicated in all such cases. The former want (viz., Bitter Tonics) can well be supplied by our Indigenous Remedies."

With this is sent a Blank Form of a Report in which it is desired that the results attendant upon the use of this agent, shall be embodied, and transmitted *through* this office to the Surgeon-General.

[OVER.]

R. L. BROWNE, *Medical Director,*  
Department of S. C., Ga. and Fla.

## OIL OF TURPENTINE AS A REMEDY IN INTERMITTENT FEVER.

"I have tried it in over *thirty* cases, and have not failed a single time when the remedy was used as here directed.

"My procedure is as follows: If there is sufficient time before the hour of the chill, I remove any general symptoms, as constipation, dryness of skin.

"Half hour before the time for the paroxysm, I apply around the body, at the lower part of the chest, a bandage *wet* with Turpentine. The linen is replaced, and the outside clothing buttoned. If convenient, I place the patient in blankets; if not, I make him keep in sight, so that he may not remove the bandage. I use a strip of cloth five or six inches wide.

"If, from any cause, the oil cannot be applied to the body, it may be applied to the extremities, care being taken to prevent evaporation of the remedy.

"The '*modus operandi*' is evident, by the general impression or shock to the symptom, its stimulating qualities; by the pain produced, and by its effect on the mind.

"Attention is necessary on the part of the surgeon and patient, to find out *exactly* by the hour for the chill to appear.

"The disease may be double tertian, or may gain or lose an hour at each periodical return. Then if the oil is applied, so as to be in *full operation* at the time the paroxysm would appear, I am safe in saying, *there will be no chill*. I generally let the strip remain one hour; but, if the patient suffers very much, I remove it a little sooner. Nearly all on whom I have used it, have let it stay until dry, without much complaint.

"The remedy is rapid, powerful and efficient, *but not so severe as many imagine*.

"The skin is not left swollen, nor so sore as from mustard.

"I have met with but *one* case of swollen tissue, and *no* case of eczematous vesicle.

"The remedy has many advantages, it is cheap, easily obtained, can be used on the march, on fatigue or picket, and no bad symptoms, as nausea, and roaring in the head, follows its use. It is easily managed, a canteen full in the hands of a nurse, and a roll of bandage, being sufficient.

"A question yet to be settled, is whether or not the disease is more liable to return by this treatment, than by the use of Quinine. The constant operation of the cause of the disease will favor the solution.

"No rational Therapeutist now contends that the alkaloid acts by neutralizing the poison of miasm in the blood, if the more sensible view is adopted, that it acts by a strong impression on the central nerve centres. That impression is only temporary. Therefore, I am of the opinion, the turpentine plan, combined with the judicious use of arsenic will be more permanent in its effects than the use of Quinine alone."



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