

which are generally observed to put a stop
to a pestilential contagion in northern
climes, they may hardly ever get rid
of this distemper (no more than the Turks
in Asia & Russian natives do of the plague)
without a purification of the infected place,
or separation of the sick. As this
was the case, several prophylactics
were sought for, when it got into large
families; the common alexipharmic
method with snake-root I knew I
knew to prove ineffectual.

The following seemed to be the only effectual
prophylactic I ever knew tried, and
which proved effectual in fifteen in one
family, where none escaped without
some preservation or another; and ^{when}
ever it was duly supplied with, the
good effects of it were evident. I observed
that before the fever formed itself, the same
sign of a recent infection, ready to display
its tragical effects, was a sudden &
unusual pain of the head, generally
above one or both eyes, which in some
continued with short intervals, &

caused a giddiness or vertigo
rather than sharp pain, attended
with unusual feebleness & languor
of the body, and often a sickness
of the stomach: these complaints, I observ-
ed were little regarded till the fever seized
them very often of a sudden, a few
hours afterwards. Upon the first com-
plaint ^{of this pain} in the head, they had 6 or 8 oz of
blood taken from the arm. Some fell
into large sweats or plentiful breathings,
some after bleeding; by which their
disorders went off; but those that
did not sweat, & their complaints
continued, took a vomit of ipecacuanha
soon after bleeding, & the night after the
vomit fell into the like sweats, by
the plentiful use of tepid diluents &
warm covering. After these appli-
cations the distemper was formid-
able as it was did when these complaints
were neglected; although many had a
brisk acute fever after, or in the time
of their administration, for the space of
12 to 24 hrs. & the same is seen in 104

this fever when once formed; and all
were dead or more feverish in the time
of their secrets, which, however, went off
with them & never returned.

In all those that were bled, even in
these circumstances, the blood was
thin, watery & seemingly dissolved, and
that in winter; a very uncommon thing
at that time of the year in Virginia.

Some few were seized so suddenly
as not to give room for this method
of prevention, which however, in most
proceeded rather from inadvertency &
neglect of a slight sudden disorder,
for want of knowledge of what it meant
than from want of guarding. [Bot page 196]

But although I can say that I never
knew this prophylactic method to fail
when it was rightly tried; yet we can
not always perhaps expect such good
effects from it; still, even then it might
be well worth while to put it into
practice in these circumstances
in all large families, houses, camps
or ships in which this distemper

has chiefly raged in America; for
it has chiefly got among seafaring
people, who sail these seas, &
has ^{been} twice brought to Virginia by his
majestys ships of war, from whence great
loss is sustained, both in private commerce
& transaction of public affairs; which
may make any account of it more
interesting, for if it were to prove ineffec-
tual for preserving against it, yet it
seems to be the best preparation for the
body to undergo the disease -

Long-Latin inscription: Hoffm. Med. Sep.
vol. II p 299-300 - X X X X X X X X

In speaking of use of emetics says of
them what "Celsus said of bleeding in
an apoplexy, 'They either kill or cure'."

~~the~~ X X X X X X X X
"The first & chief scope of the cure
is to conquer the force of the disease -
before it has produced any ^{to} full effects
in the body, so as to render it more mild
& tractable, than it usually is, when
left to take its course; else the event
will be precarious." "The cure ^{there} affects
and must be directed against the

May have fun the above dissections & course of the disease, proceed from an inflammation of the viscera. The principal way to prevent which, is generally done by large evacuations at first: so that the chief indication in curing this disease is the same as in other inflammatory fevers, viz. to keep off any local inflammation, or more universal obstruction of the capillaries by evacuation. Plentiful bleeding is a means commonly found most effectual to obtain this and in the benign inflammatory fevers: but we cannot apply this most effectual remedy in this disease, because it evacuates only & chiefly the red globules of the blood, which as we see by its stain taken notice of above, are in too small a proportion already; and bleeding further thins the texture of the blood; which almost always is to be avoided in this disease: for after plentiful bleeding the pulse sinks or at least is so low and feeble about the state of the disease.

as to prove of dangerous consequence;
which some instances I have known
seem to confirm. +C +C +C -
Does not discard bleeding entirely
but draws off small quantities xx

"There are but two passages by which
we can drain off the overabounding
serum or dissolved blood; & viz. the
into or inner surface of the body by
means of sudorifics or cathartics;
for the evacuation by urine is uncertain
& not always in our power. Sweating
takes place in this as in most other
pestilential diseases. By this man-
ner of evacuating, we can drain off
the greatest quantities of the dissolved
humors, & make the largest evacuation
than can be safely made. +C +C -
x x x x x x x x x x

Next in importance be used. "mild
relaxing choleragogue apozems, taken
frequently in such quantities as to keep
up a constant diarrhoea, rather than
speedy purgation. +C +C -
x x x x x x x x x x

Premonitory evacuations are generally
readed in most fevers, especially
such as proceed from a deproavation
of the inquilin humors of the body;
but these contagious malignant
fevers proceed from a venonous miasma
recuit ab extra; which like all other
poisons, ought to be discharged as soon
as possible, *qua dato porta.*" xxx

"In this method I was directed by
nature herself. I observed that moderate
thirtilions stools raised by nature
for a day or two, at the beginning, pre-
vented in a great measure the
yellowness at the height of the distemper
which then terminated by sweat.
[The alexipharmic method was to 1st sweat
+ afterwards purge]. X O O

"Several, treated in this manner, had
no relapses, which all had here in
Va. in the winter & spring seasons
that were treated in any other manner"

He gave plentifully of aqueous diluents
for this "moistening, cooling, diluent"

prejudicial in another. Thus in the
years 1737 and 1741, when this disease
was epidemic in Virginia, the sick
could not be made to sweat in the
winter & spring seasons; at least,
not so plentifully as was necessary
to check the violence of the fever, and
arrest the impending inflammation;
which, indeed is very often the case
when this distemper is very severe;
for you must observe, that it differs as
much in degree at different times, as
the measles or small pox does.

Dr Cadwallader Colden, of New York
wrote Dr Mitchell June 8. 1745, some
observations on his treatise on yellow fever
which Mr Franklin showed him. He speaks
very highly of Dr Mitchell.

"Now, Sir, the manner which you have taken
to answer the objections which I made
is so much to my heart, that I think
myself happy in having given occa-
sion to this for it gives me hopes of
an epistolary correspondence with

Dr Mitchell who, (though I do not otherwise know him) through the papers Mr. Franklin transmitted to me, has gained that love & esteem which candour & knowledge can only procure. I can promise you very little for the pleasure I hope from you, if you will favor me with correspondence by Mr. Franklin's means, but that I will ^{my} cheerfully serve your curiosity in every thing ^{that is} in my power."