

B

Name.....	Grade.....
.....	School.....
.....	Class.....

J. C. BLAIR CO., MANUFACTURERS, HUNTINGDON, PENN'A.

Extracts from

Account of the Yellow Fever which prevailed in Virginia in the years 1737, 1741, and 1742, in a Letter to the late Capt. Alexander Cullen, Esq. of New York, from the late John Mitchell, M.D. F.R.S., of Virginia,

This letter, written by Dr. Mitchell in 1744 finally came into the hands of Dr. Benj. Rush, who placed it with another of Dr. Mitchell's written in 1745 in the hands of Dr. Hosack, who published them in American Medical and Philosophical Register, vol. IV, 1814.

Sir,

In giving you an account of the pestilential distemper which has lately raged in Virginia, I shall not touch on any thing relating to it, which you have had a full account of already in the same or like disease; that I might the better amuse the

for, writing, and spare you the tedious
trouble of reading. For which reason
it would be needless here, to enter
into a particular enumeration and
description of all the symptoms
which accompany this dire disease;
they being no more, and no fewer,
than what are commonly ascribed
to and may be observed in most
malignant-fevers; beside, they
are already enumerated by Dr Warren.
The symptoms and three remarkable
stages of our disease, are much the
same as those observed by the said
author in the malignant-fever of the
Barbadoes; but I shall recount
those symptoms, which appeared
true to the pathognomonic and
inseparable from the disease, at-
least when rightly formed, as they seem
not-yet to be so well known; by which
this fever will appear to be of the malig-
nant kind as it generally resembles
those that are contagious, by its

first appearing with a pain in the head and back and about the stomach, succeeded by grievous anxieties and oppression about the precordia. And in general this distemper may be defined to be, a pestilential fever proceeding from a contagious miasma sui generis, which influences the stomach and adjacent viscera, obstructs the biliary ducts, and dissolves the adipose humors; to which generally succeeds an effusion of a bilious or other yellow humor upon the external or internal surface of the body, unless prevented by some means or other.

Those ~~pathog~~ ^{orthog}nomie symptoms appeared to ~~be~~ the following six, of which the three last are more peculiar to it.

1. A very great & sudden debility without any manifest cause.
2. A furious anxiety, generally very grievous.
3. A short-quick difficult-orthogmic respiration after fever is formed.
4. A contracted deep pulse; the artery feels tense but the pulse is

impassible, to which succeeds a depressed & soft & low pulse, after the state of the disease, or after the yellow effusion appears. 5. A pain of the scrobiculus cordis, either much complained of or to be felt on pressing that part; and more or less severe according to the severity of the disease. 6. A ~~yellowness~~ in the eyes or all over the body at the state of the disease; unless prevented by colligation or critical discharges; to which may be added a violent & unusual kind of pain of the head, unless it is drowned, as it were, in the more grievous complaint about the pæcordia.

The proximate causes and state of the body in this disease may be pretty evident to those versed in the animal economy, from the following anatomical dissections.

February 14. 1741-2. At the request of Richard Clinch, Esq: in Virginia and in the presence of him & several

others, I opened the body of one of his
slaves who died of this disease.
This was the body of an elderly woman,
past forty, who died the day before, on
the fourth of the disease, with the follow-
ing complaints; grievous and violent
anxieties, occasioned as she said,
by the sickness of her stomach,
severe pain in her head and back,
relieving by intervals, contracted
hypochondres, and the scrobiculus
cordis painful to the touch, short quick
and interrupted respiration with
deep sighs and heavy groans; a
slight raving rather than delirium,
a black tongue, unquenchable thirst,
tremors, very quick and depressed
pulse, the eyes very yellow, a sudden
and severe pain about the navel a few
minutes before death.

After cutting the teguments of the
abdomen, the fat of the body appeared
^{very} yellow, so as to be noticed by the bystanders,
and was indeed as yellow as the eyes
commonly are in jaundice. When

penetrating into the cavity of the abdomen and laying the teguments aside, I was surprised to see no such thing as an omentum; at first I imagined I had torn it off, or removed it to one side with the teguments; but in vain was it sought for in the whole body. There appeared a few things like the blood vessels of the cæcum adhering to the place where it is generally connected to the stomach & colon; the traces of which connection might be discerned; but there was no more remains of its substance than a little yellowish thin oily liquor floating up & down among the intestines and about the mesentery.

The Liver appeared turgid and plump without any bluish on its outer convex surface; but on the concave surface, two thirds of it was of a deep black colour, round the gall bladder, seeming to be mortified or corrupted.

The Gall bladder appeared outwardly of a deep yellow, but within was full of a blackropy coagulated atra-bilis, which

work of substance likewise obstructed
the forus biliaris and ductus choledochus.
This atra-bilis was hardly fluid; but
on opening the gall bladder it retained
its form and shape without being eva-
cuated, being of the consistence of a thin
extract, and withal glutinous and
ropy like soap when boiling; this black
matter seemed so much unlike bile
that I doubted if there was any bile in the
gall: it more resembled bruised or
mortified blood, evacuated from the mortified
parts of the liver surrounding, although
it would stain a knife or probe thrust
into it of a yellow colour, which, with
its ropy consistence, seemed more
peculiar to a bilious humor.

The duodenum was of a deep yellow
colour as usual upon its outside; but
where contiguous to the cystis fellea, had
a mixture of a deep green or eruginous
colour intermixed with its yellow;
within, it contained a viscid bile, or
rather a yellow mucus, closely adhering
to its tunics, mixed with a little of the
black bile, like that contained in the cystis.

Its villous coat appeared to be lined with a thicker fur or slime than ordinary, which being scraped or peeled off, the other ~~vascular~~ muscular coats of the gut appeared red & inflamed.

The stomach seemed manifestly inflamed; it had no do outer surface towards its upper orifice, two large broad spots of a dark red colour, somewhat resembling the flushings in its cheeks or a rose in the leg; it had nothing within but a little drink which had just ^{been} swallowed, and some of the black choler, resembling that in the gall-bladder, floating upon it; which was of a blacker colour here than in the gall-bladder itself; it looked ruddy within as if it had been inflamed there likewise; its villous coat appeared, like that of the duodenum more fuzzy & slimy, as if it were swelled & distended, which was particularly marked by all others who opened any bodies that died of this disease.

The lungs, instead of being collapsed were rather inflated ~~as~~ as in inspiration.

on which spots, generally, were to be seen
on all vesiculae, or blisters, like those
of an erysipelas or gangrene, contain-
ing a yellowish humor.

I did not so curiously examine the
other parts, as I saw no defect in any;
and these seemed sufficient to show
the cause of her death & account for the
several symptoms of her disease;
only the blood vessels in general seemed
very ample of blood, even the vena cava
and its branches; the blood seemed to
be collected in the viscera; for upon cutting
the lungs, or solid liver, or spleen, they
bled freely. The brain was not opened,
for want of conveniences at hand;
but it did not seem to be affected in
the disease, and was not affected
in three men who were opened.

This woman was taken with a pain in her
head & back, extending from the loins as
far as the region of the liver, with great sickness
at her stomach, succeeded by chilliness,
burning fever, anxieties, &c. and was
treated with bleedings and purgatives.