

## New Treatment of Scarlet Fever.

### PART II.

In a previous paper I set forth as clearly as I could "The Home Treatment of Scarlet Fever," by Robert Milne, Esq., M.D., Medical Officer to Dr. Barnardo's Homes and Hospitals, (with his kind permission).

First, I propose to give a few of his statistics as published last year. I may say also that during the last twelve months his cases have been subjected to most critical examination by many leading medical men and specialists, and no flaw can be found in his treatment and its results, which are unique.

As far back as 1895, I find that he had confidence in his theories when properly carried out, but he says that it was during the epidemic at Dr. Barnardo's Girls' Village, Barkingside, Ilford, that he was able first to somewhat fully test the value of his treatment. This was from December 16th, 1904, to April 2nd, 1905, and was due either to the milk supply or to an unknown cause.

He says, "From our Isolation House, patients were returned in five, four, three, or two weeks. They mingled freely with from sixteen to twenty-five other girls, from 2 to 16 years of age, 1,100 girls being in residence there. In no case was there any infection carried."

He further remarks, "On many occasions I have kept a child in the house with from six to twenty other children without any infection spreading."

During the aforesaid epidemic, I was resident in the girls' village, though not at that time engaged in attendance on the scarlet fever cases, but during the early part of 1905 I came into daily contact with many of the convalescing children, when they were out of isolation, but were peeling freely, many of these in the fourth week of the disease.

I mixed freely with the other residents (adults and children) in the village without any precautions, neither changing my clothes nor disinfecting my hands after touching the convalescent, and there was no infection carried to the houses I frequented.

It was, therefore, with much pleasure that I heard from the Hon. Medical Officer of this Home his decision to adopt Dr. Milne's treatment when the occasion arose in July last.

We have 50 beds for delicate and incurable children in this hospital home belonging to Dr. Barnardo's Home, the ages of the patients varying from infants to one or two cases of 18 years and 21 years—about half the

number are 10 years or age and under. The cases may be classified under the following headings:—Malnutrition and Rachitis, Paralysis, and Tuberculosis (the latter disease preponderating) in many different forms.

There were 49 children in residence, about two-thirds of whom are confined to bed, and divided into Boys' and Girls' Surgical and Medical Wards.

On July 10th scarlet fever broke out; his cases were as follows:—

No.	Throat.	Rash.	Peeling.
1 ...	Severe ...	Well marked ...	Abundant
2 ...	„ ...	Marked ...	Free
3 ...	„ ...	Well marked ...	„
4 ...	„ ...	Marked ...	„

The first two cases (girls) were isolated until July 26th. On the 21st a third case arising the Medical Officer decided to adopt Dr. Milne's treatment; the third and fourth cases were accordingly kept in their own ward, and eucalyptus was at once applied, and the throat also treated with carbolic oil. The first two cases were then put in the same ward and the same treatment applied. The ward contains eight beds in all. The four other beds were occupied *throughout* by four other small children, two suffering from malnutrition and two from infantile paralysis, not infected, the ages varying from 1 year and 9 months to 6 years. The ward thus used was on the main landing, the adjacent doors leading into other wards fully occupied.

From the adoption of Dr. Milne's treatment on the fourth child, there were *no* fresh cases of infection, although the nursing staff day and night attended on infected and ordinary patients without regard to their complaint, and without being disinfected. No complications occurred. In every case there was a full and frequent report of the urine tested; on every occasion the note was "no albumen."

The patients suffering from scarlet fever were all extremely delicate children, the first child suffering from congenital deformity of both hands and feet, and being subject to severe attacks of croup.

The second was a child suffering from general debility and amputation of both legs below the knee.

The third, aged 3½ years, on admission to this hospital-home when eight months old, weighed only 6½ lbs.; he suffered from malnutrition. This child has a bridgeless nose, and suffers from ozæna and slight otorrhœa.

The fourth case was that of a child of 5 years with Pott's disease with a sinus.

None of the four other children warded with the scarlet fever cases had ever suffered from

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