

During the period above named, *Scarlatina* was also prevalent in Edinburgh, and numerous cases, in all its various forms, were admitted into the fever and clinical wards. Yet *not a single instance* has ever come to my knowledge of this disease being supposed to have been propagated in an hospital. Many instances also occur where *Scarlatina* has attacked one or two members of a family, and where no other individual has been affected, although the intercourse has been unrestrained. In my own family, three children had it with some days interval between them. The servant and other individuals who attended on them, and were constantly about them, did not evince a single symptom of the disease, whilst another, who never was exposed to the *contagion*, had a sharp attack. I had lately two fatal cases of *Scarlatina*, children of one family, one of which was assiduously visited also by our excellent Secretary;* the first fatal by sudden congestion of the brain, with retrocession of the eruption, the other from acute hydrocephalic symptoms. Their parents, Mr. and Mrs. B——, who had also a young baby, with these two, took up their abode at a house (of a Mr. R——) in this City, just as the eldest began to complain. Mr. R.'s family consisted, besides, of four adults, if not five, and four children of different ages. During the illness of Mr. B.'s two children, the other children were certainly kept down stairs, but the other individuals were indefatigable about the two little sufferers by day and night; and up to this very day of writing this sketch, no one else of either family has had any trace of the disease.† Mr. R. had a slight attack of *cyanche tonsillaris*, with aching of his limbs, easily accounted for by his being exposed for a considerable time one night to damp and cold, without sufficient clothing, while trying to procure leeches. True it is that after the funeral, I recommended fumigation, cleansing and ventilation to the utmost; for while so many men of observation and talent maintain the contagiousness of this disease, I should not feel justified in not directing what is so desirable under any circumstances.

The rarity of a second attack of *Scarlatina* is no proof of either opinion, as second attacks of Measles and Small Pox occur occasionally, and are by no means unfrequent in typhus.

Scarlatina is known to have spread very extensively through this Province during the last three years, and yet this fact is far more explicable on the idea of its being an epidemic, arising from some general cause, than from contagion. The experience of Ireland and other places shews that typhus will invariably

* The late deeply lamented Dr. Grasett.

† One little boy was affected twenty days afterwards.