

The malady which caused her death run such a remarkable course among the members of the Grand-Ducal family, that, altogether apart from the sad issues it has had in at least two instances, the outbreak would constitute a very valuable field for study. The curious thing was that it should be strictly and entirely limited to the Grand-Ducal family, and have attacked no one of the many attendants in the palace, or even those more immediately surrounding the sick folks. The epidemic began on Nov. 6; the eldest Princess, Victoria, aged sixteen, was attacked. Five days elapsed, and on the night of the 11-12th November, Princess Alice, aged six; on the day of the 12th, princess Mary, aged four; and on the night of the 12-13th, Princess Irene, aged twelve, were successively attacked. On the afternoon of the 13th, the son and heir of the Grand-Duke, Ernest Ludwig, aged ten, the Hereditary Grand-Duke, was similarly seized; and on the 14th the Grand-Duke himself became in turn the subject of the disease. Thus in the eight days from November 6 to 14, the whole of the family, with the exception of the Princess Elizabeth and the Princess Alice herself, were attacked with the formidable malady; but the interval which elapsed between the first and succeeding cases is to our mind most significant, for, as it seems to us, it clearly points to the Princess Victoria being the source of the illness to the rest of the family. By some means yet unknown the disease originated in her, and then, by means evidently of the most strictly limited kind, was successively spread among the other members of the family; but not apparently to all, for the onset of the malady in the case of the Princess Alice came much later; and it is most probable that the fatigue and mental distress she had gone through during the illness of her husband and children was one of the main factors in causing in her its fatal issue.

Looking at the outbreak from a purely scientific point of view, the first thing to be noted is the causation of the epidemic. The physicians affirm that it came from without; and in support of this they allege the violent characteristics of the disease from the very beginning in the Princess Victoria. But they also seem to think that the children were unusually prone to the mischief, inasmuch as all had suffered very frequently from acute and chronic affections of the parts. This will again, to the minds of most medical practitioners in this country, suggest a doubt as to the soundness of the view taken by these gentlemen as to the cause of the disease. Repeated attacks of tonsillitis are commonly considered indicative of an indifferant constitution, or of exposure to unhealthy influences. In the case of the Grand-Ducal family, we have no reason to believe that the former is the case, but it is not so clear that the latter influence has not been at work. The New Castle, which was built in 1864, is in every respect, we are assured, perfect as regards sewage and ventilation, and its position high up on a hill renders this all the more likely. Moreover, we have the authority of Mr. Spencer Wells for saying that Dr. Ergenbrodt, who makes this statement, is one in every