

microscopical specimens of the Influenza Bacillus, but could state nothing more positive concerning them than that that they were the probable cause, being always found in the bronchial excretions of that affection but never in others. Experiments in animals so far have given negative results, while none have ever been made on man. Dr. Klein, however, possibly became infected while working for the Influenza commission. He suffered from an attack at that time and found the Baccillus in both his blood and expectoration.

The earliest etiological factor I have ever seen hinted at, is that of a Dr. Willis, who says: "About the end of April, 1558, suddenly a distemper arose as if sent by some blast of the stars." Perhaps the above gave origin to the idea recently advanced by a Chicago physician that Influenza was due to a *striped microbe* contained in star dust.

Among various theories advanced from time to time, certain atmospheric conditions, electrical changes and magnetic currents occupy prominent places, but none long satisfied the enquiring mind. Writing in 1837, Watson after discussing the above as causative factors ends by saying: "Another hypothesis more fanciful perhaps at first sight than these, yet more easily accommodated to the known phenomenon of the distemper attributes it to the presence of innumerable minute substances endowed with vegetable or animal life and developed in unusual abundance under specific conditions of the atmosphere in which they float and in which they are carried hither and thither. All this is sheer hypothesis but it is the only hypothesis that I am able to give you, and you must be content to conceive of it as being the possibly true one, till a better shall be proposed." Such then was the standing of the present germ theory 57 years ago, at least as far as Influenza was concerned.

Next in importance to the actual causative factor comes the question of

personal contagion, observers of high standing differ right here, some holding it to be highly contagious, others slightly so, and still others contending that it cannot be transmitted from person to person. As in many other things so in this the truth lies probably in the "golden mean." That direct contagion occurred in the following cases taken from my case book seems highly probable:

D. A. was taken ill Feb. 22nd 1894, with La Grippe—nervous phenomena predominating. On the 24th his daughter Miss A. came to nurse him, and on the 26th I found her suffering severely from a sudden onset of nervous Influenza. As soon as she felt ill she had at once returned home when a few days later a brother was taken ill with a similar attack. In both cases it seems highly probable that direct contagion was the cause. On the other hand we frequently find a whole household stricken down almost simultaneously, thus excluding personal contagion unless the incubation period is an inappreciably short one. In such a case the cause is apparently due to some common source of infection.

As all are familiar with the usual symptoms of Influenza I shall only direct attention to some of the more important ones or such as may have some particular interest in themselves, passing in the mean while rapidly over there with which we most commonly meet.

Modern writers usually describe four varieties or types of the disease, viz: the catarrhal, nervous, febrile and gastro-intestinal, according to the predominance of one of the several groups of symptoms. Such a division is very convenient though necessarily artificial as in every case all the symptoms are present to a greater or lesser extent. In other words such a classification is one of degree rather than one of kind. To the popular mind only one type exists—the catarrhal and frequently on