

cannot be expected ; nevertheless, in any large series, the severer manifestations appear to be less common. As has been urged so often and so ably by many writers, the beneficial action is not so much special and antipyretic as general, tonic, and roborant. The typhoid picture is not so frequently seen, and we may have twenty or more cases under treatment without an instance of dry tongue or of delirium among them. It is a mistake to claim, as do the too ardent advocates of the plan, that severe nervous symptoms are never seen. I have taken the pains to go over carefully our records on this point. There were in the first three years thirteen cases, in the past two years nine cases with delirium. Most of these were protracted cases which had from 75 to 120 baths.

A far more important claim is that the use of the cold bath reduces the mortality from the disease. The comparison of death rates as a measure of the efficacy of any plans of treatment is notoriously uncertain unless *all* the circumstances are taken into account. In our own figures for the past five years, for example, illustrate this—6.2 per cent. in the bathed cases, 10 in the unbathed cases—as the latter group is made up entirely of cases entirely too mild to bathe, and six patients in whom either the disease was not recognized or who were too ill on admission to treat.

Statistics have a value in this connection only when the figures on which they are based are nu-

merous enough to neutralize in some measure their notorious mobility. Small groups of cases are useless ; 24 per cent. of mortality in our first year in thirty-three cases, and a series of nearly fifty bathed cases without a death, illustrate the liability to error in discussing a few cases. Unfortunately, typhoid fever is a disease in which the cases may be reckoned by hundreds and thousands, and the average mortality in general and special hospitals throughout Europe and America is easily gathered. The rate may be placed between 15 and 20 in each hundred cases. In the Metropolitan Fever Hospitals, London, the death rate as given in the Report for 1893, was 17 per cent.

The cold-bath treatment, rigidly enforced, appears to save from six to eight in each century of typhoid patients admitted to the care of the hospital physician.

While I enforce the method for its results, I am not enamored of the practice. I have been criticized rather sharply for saying harsh words about the Brand system. To-day, when I hear a young girl say that she enjoys the baths, I accept the criticism and feel it just ; but to-morrow, when I hear a poor fellow (who has been dumped like Falstaff, "hissing hot" into a cold tub), chattering out malediction upon nurses and doctors, I am inclined to resent it, and to pray for a method which may be, equally life-saving, and, to put it mildly, less disagreeable.