

commonly say, to prognosticate in eruptive fevers, with a certainty which it is not permitted us to do, in any other tribe of diseases." Since then, however, circumstances have occurred, which have compelled many greatly to modify the views which they had entertained; and perhaps few will now be found, who would be willing to subscribe the six laws above given. Many now believe with Drake (who gave it as the result of thirty-years' observation) that scarlet fever and measles may be merely *varieties* of the same species, and think that it is quite possible that the same miasm may produce different exanthemata. Many more will be found who repudiate altogether the law of *non-recurrence*, believing, for instance, that scarlatina may be taken not only twice, but many times. It will be my object to shew the bearing which the cases which have recently come under my notice have on the question.

The past season has been characterised by a more than ordinary prevalence of exanthemata, and there are at present epidemic, variola and varioloids, varicella and its several forms. Scarlatina and morbilli of various types, and lastly roseola, many cases of which, I have reason to believe, have been classed under the heads which I have previously mentioned. I shall first select for remark *scarlatina*. It has been very prevalent and very fatal, and so far as I can judge from pretty extensive enquiry, has generally shown a typhoid tendency.

On the 25th of last November, I was asked to see a little boy about seven years of age, at his parents' residence in St. Louis suburbs. There were eleven children from twenty-two to three years of age. The house was not drained, and was badly ventilated, and scarlatina had been some time prevalent in the vicinity. The little patient had hot skin, quick pulse and sore throat; I could discover no eruption, though I suspected scarlatina fever. The mother had given a dose of laxative medicine, which had operated very powerfully. There not being any mustard in the house, I recommended *coal oil* to be applied round the throat, a gargle of chlorate of potass, a soap bath at bedtime and acidulated barley water for drink. Next day I found the throat relieved, no eruption visible, but it could be distinctly felt along the back. Continued the treatment with the addition of chlorinated waters, after Watson's formula. In the evening the eruption showed itself imperfectly, and was of a raspberry hue, more like measles than scarlet fever. On next morning's visit, found he had passed a tolerable night, and that the eruption was pretty freely developed, but the cervical glands were also very much enlarged. There was yet no unfavourable symptom, but having been informed by the mother that she had lost her three first children by scarlatina in one day, and as another of the family a girl of fourteen years of age showed premonitory