

claimed that about one in forty who drink the water containing it take the disease, and that ninety per cent. of the cases are caused by drinking water, and by the water in which the cans that contain milk are washed. The germs are never found in milk except through water and soiled hands. They grow rapidly in milk, and more rapidly in skim-milk.

Typhoid fever is always caused by the germs described. They can obtain access by the mouth only to the human body, not by the breath; they must be swallowed. The germs may be conveyed by water, through milk; by the ever-present house fly; by oysters grown near drains; by cockles; by celery when soiled by polluted earth; and by soiled hands, clothes, etc. Let us suppose an individual to have swallowed the germs; the incubation stage of the disease—that period in which the cause lies dormant in the system before the symptoms develop—varies from six to thirty days, with an average of twelve days. The temperature reaches its height in about eight days. In the event of death, it usually takes place between the twenty-first and the twenty-eighth days, the majority of deaths occurring between the ages of 15 and 35. And the general mortality—so far as has been ascertained—is about seven per cent. But the disease is too often mistaken for malaria. The sickness generally lasts between three and eight weeks, and the convalescent may retain the germs for weeks after he considers himself well. A mother can not transmit the disease to her nursing infant except by want of cleanliness.

The disease is most usually prevalent in the months of August, September, October and November, but it often appears in the spring months, after a thaw, the germ having been carried from the banks into the rivers and shallow wells. When it is distributed in various parts of a district furnished with water from rivers or shallow wells, we may look for the cause in the water; when it appears chiefly among children, we should follow the milkman. The disease may, and often is, conveyed by iced water.