

of death, although the injuries were afterwards proven not to have been of recent origin.

(*To be continued.*)

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ART. XXXII.—*Short Sketch of an Epidemic of Scarlet Fever, with a few general Remarks.* By JAMES BARNSTON, M.D., Edin.; Extr. Member of the Royal Medical Society, Edinburgh; Member (ex officio) of the Parisian Medical Society, &c.

I am induced to submit the following outline of the origin and progress of an epidemic of scarlet fever which lately appeared in Selkirk, in the south of Scotland, as it presents many points of importance to interest the medical man. Having possessed a favorable opportunity of observing it from the commencement to its termination, its leading characteristics were faithfully noted down at the time; and however imperfectly they be now conveyed, I trust they will prove in themselves sufficiently interesting to the reader.

During the month of May, and previous to this period, the town of Selkirk, was considered very healthy, in spite of much variable cold and stormy weather. Subsequent to these atmospheric changes, which are common in spring, in situations so highly elevated, a genial warmth succeeded, accompanied by dampness and occasional rain. It was at this time that scarlet fever made its first and unexpected appearance, by attacking, simultaneously, three families living at some distance from each other in the town. In one of these families, all the children, six in number, labored successively under the disease, which affected two of them very severely. The two children of the second family—both under two years of age—took the disease; the eldest in the malignant form, which proved fatal. The only child of the third family, who lived in another part of the town, was seized with the typhoid variety—which also proved fatal in this case.

The disease next appeared in a family who lived a mile and a half distant from the town, and whose communication with it was entirely cut off. Here seven out of eight, including the mother, suffered from the disease, and out of four of these cases which proved typhoid in their nature; three deaths resulted. Not to particularise any further into individual cases, the disease increased very rapidly after its commencement. It was not observed to localise itself in particular localities, and gradually spread from one house to another in the neighborhood; so far from this, the epidemic diffused itself widely and rapidly over the whole extent of the town, various sections of it appearing to be *poisoned*, as it