

land, the Walcheren fever, the jungle or hill fever of the East Indies, and the yellow fever of the West Indies and this Continent. In none of these cases can we prove the existence of contagion, and one of the strongest proofs of their non-contagiousness is, that individuals labouring under any of them, on being removed to a *healthy* location, have NEVER been known to communicate the disease. One conclusion to be deduced from this class of diseases is, that the spread of a disease among the individuals of a family, or of any mass of persons, is *not to be taken, per se, as a conclusive proof of contagion.*

As examples of the third class of diseases, I shall mention Cholera and Influenza. I am aware that they have been considered contagious, but I believe that extensive and accurate investigation have sufficiently proved that they are not.

Now, in endeavouring to ascertain how far *Scarlatina* is contagious, let us compare it with the foregoing examples. It would be very easy to multiply instances of its apparent contagion; and one gentleman, for whose judgment and talent I entertain the highest respect, has stated that he has known it conveyed a long distance (I forget how many miles) by means of a letter sent through the Post Office!—we may exclaim with Dominic Sampson—*Pro-di-gious!* But in such a case the only fact arrived at is, that an attack of *Scarlatina* occurred in a certain family about the time of the arrival of a letter from a house where this disease existed. In Edinburgh, in the years 1817, 1818, 1819, 1820, typhus (I use the term generally) occurred to a fearful extent. During that time the Edinburgh Infirmary contained somewhere about two hundred patients. The fever patients were placed in wards appropriated to them, except in the clinical wards, where, to a certain extent, they were mixed with other diseases. Almost all the individuals whose duties were connected with the fever wards, were attacked with fever—the physicians' clerks, matron, apothecary and nurses were, without exception I believe, attacked; several of the clerks and nurses had fever a second time, and some few even a third time. (In some a fatal termination took place.) To the best of my recollection no case of fever occurred among the nurses belonging to the other wards, or among the other servants of the establishment, and certainly in two years no such circumstance occurred. In Queensberry House, which was open part of that time as a fever hospital, and contained from thirty to forty or more patients, several of the nurses and some of the clerks were attacked with fever. I have the best authority for stating that in the Toronto Hospital, patients who were admitted with other diseases, and who had been placed alongside typhus fever patients, become affected with that disease. I have no doubt but that many of our members have observed similar facts.