

and sometimes fatal among the unacclimated. It was not uncommon to find during the hot weather of summer cases of ague or remittent in every house in a settlement, and frequently every member of a family would be attacked at once. Unacclimated persons who were healthy and vigorous sometimes passed the first summer without being attacked, but the fact that they developed it early the next year shewed that the poison though dormant was still present and had preserved its virulence through the long period of winter ready to shew itself on the first occasion of the lowering of the powers of life. When the system became saturated with the miasmatic poison, the patient was generally attacked every summer as soon as the weather became warm and it stuck to him either continuously or with intervals of apparent convalescence until the approach of cold weather. This would go on for perhaps from three to five years, when the susceptibility to the disease seemed to be worn out, but it left the patient with a constitution so shattered that it took years to recuperate, and left him an easy prey to the first serious attack of disease.

The miasmatic poison was so omnipresent that it complicated almost every other disease. I remember my father saying that he had scarcely seen an uncomplicated case of pneumonia and the man who ignored its presence had little success in treatment. Quinia would check it as certainly, and I think in much smaller quantities than we now require it. From 10 to 12 grains in 2 grain doses rarely if ever failed to stop the ague for at least seven to fourteen days.

At the same time there was a peculiar and very fatal disease among cattle. It had the local name of Murrain. The animal was seen to be ailing. The eyes became sunken. The extremities cold. In a short time a bloody diarrhoea and haematuria ensued and the animal died in from

twelve to twenty-four hours. A case of recovery was almost unknown. This disease was so prevalent, that scarcely a herd escaped and a farmer frequently lost from one-fourth to one-half his stock of horned cattle. Horses and sheep were not affected. In the next township to the west of us, the soil was porous sand, well watered with springs and spring streams, and here, though ague was not uncommon this disease of cattle was unknown.

Contrary to an opinion frequently advanced the presence of malaria was not accompanied with the absence of typhoid, which I think was as prevalent as it is now.

When my father settled here there was not a doctor nearer than a days ride, and the medicine was entirely domestic. Charms and incantations were largely depended upon in cases of ague and hemorrhage, but in cases where remedies were used they were pushed with a vigor that would take the breath of the modern patient. Whiskey was the universal remedy, and had the advantage of being indicated in all diseases in all their stages and in all conditions of the patient. It was a *sine qua non* in midwifery. I remember when a boy riding with two old settlers through the woods and while passing a log house many miles from the nearest neighbor a woman rushing out hailing one of the men with "Have you any whiskey." He slowly and hesitatingly acknowledged that we had a bottle, "Just enough to take us through the woods." "You will have to give it to us, says the old woman, "Here's a woman sick and no whiskey. Did you ever hear of such a thing?" My friends took a parting drink, and then with a "longing lingering look" at the departing spirit handed the remainder to the midwife.

A disciple of Thompson had carried his peculiar ideas into the settlement and the beautiful simplicity of the doctrine "Heat is life and cold is death," and that you had only to throw