

the scourge for the first time, since which time its recurrence has been noted at varying periods, and in different degrees of intensity, as well as in different forms.

Gibson, an old English author of repute, in a work published in 1750, describes a disease which he denominates a pestilential disease, or 'Epidemic Distemper,' which frequently prevailed to a great extent in England, entailing great loss, and even ruin in some cases to the farmers. This disease, from the symptoms presented, must have been influenza. It was noticed in London during the autumn months of 1732, and made its appearance in several other parts of the kingdom about the same time. It commenced in some places in the country near London in September, entering the city during the following month, and progressing so swiftly that in a week there was scarcely a stable to be found in the whole city without the infection. Its duration was from two weeks to a month. During the spring of 1734 it again visited England, presenting the same general symptoms as the epizootic of two years before, but, in addition, showing symptoms of derangement of the urinary apparatus and inflammation of the lungs, as complications; and this form was, of course, attended with greater fatality than that of 1732.

The disease is very erratic in its movements, proceeding from north to south, and from east to west, as well as in the opposite directions; but there seems to be a tendency to proceed from the east to the west more than in any other direction.

In the epizootic form it is remarkable for its extensive and rapid diffusion, extending within a brief period over different and widely-separated expanses of territory. In its course it bears a strong resemblance to the march of that terrible scourge of the human race, epidemic cholera. It quickly spreads from one locality to another, and even from