

The majority of epidemics were traceable to the water supply and he was inclined to look upon that furnished the city, as the medium by which the poison was carried.

Doctor Rogers said we had first to learn the nature of the fever and then search for its cause. He did not consider that malaria was a factor. It had never been in the city before this autumn, the conditions of moisture and heat were wanting, and in his experience the course of the fever had shown no intermission. He looked upon it as typhoid only. As to the cause it could not be the water

supply as other places were similarly affected. The whole explanation was to be sought for in the sewers. Owing to the dry season the gases were excessive, the drains were badly constructed and the traps very defective.

Dr. Prevost viewing his cases clinically, decided that malaria did influence the present fever. The majority were typhoid but some cases were clearly of an intermittent character. He exhibited the temperature chart of one case of this type.

The meeting adjourned, the discussion to be continued at the next meeting.

## STATE MEDICINE.

### Quarantine at the Public Health Association.

(Correspondence.)

BY W. OLDRIGHT, M.A., M.D., TORONTO. DELEGATE FROM  
PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH, ONTARIO.

To the Editor:

SIR,—In compliance with your request I send a brief sketch of some points connected with my ramble through "the land of cotton," a name which one finds most appropriate as he gazes upon the landings of the Mississippi at any portion of the eight hundred and fifty miles which that mighty river traverses between St. Louis and Vicksburg. Do not imagine that I was in command of sufficient leisure to take in the whole of this sketch with its hundreds of landings and loadings and unloadings; but I saw the upper end of it at St. Louis and after attending to the business of the Board at Memphis I took a run down the river for two hundred and forty miles on my own account, and would heartily recommend the trip to any one who wants a rest for a day or two and who happens to be "away down south in Dixie," or thereabouts.

*Cotton.*—We met many steamboats so laden with it that the water was running over the lower deck; but the river was low and our larger boat, the "Kate Adams," was obliged to content herself with about half her usual load, and even then the sounding line had to be called into frequent requisition, and so often did we hear "mark twain" heralded that it made me wish I could bring back that day of "Old Times on the Mississippi" on which the mirthful individual who sports that *nomme de plume* tells us he was laboring so hard in the pilot-house and calling, "Oh, Ben, if you love me, back her!" whilst Mr. Bixby hidden

behind the smoke-stack, was enjoying the fun with the rest of the conspirators; but alas for the glory of the Mississippi in this age of rush! It has been sadly diminished by the ruthless rivalry of the iron horse.

But this is not "medical science" and although I know your poetic soul will pardon this kind of an introduction, I must leave the Mississippi after reminding you by way of apology that it is the home of malaria. The delta of the Yazoo lies to the east of the portion of "the River" which I traversed on this occasion and though its fertility can hardly be surpassed anywhere—consisting as it does of rich alluvial deposits—the presence of malaria, together with race antagonism and the consequent difficulty of obtaining reliable help kept it from progressing as it otherwise would. I was informed that persons living there, whether native or imported, suffer from a great lack of energy, and I suppose this is largely due to malarial influences. Now, however, greater attention is being paid to leaving abundant air space beneath the houses and to other sanitary precautions.

You will no doubt be chiefly interested in hearing the results of the cholera battle which we sniffed from afar before I left Toronto. As I approached nearer to the supposed scene of conflict I heard occasional indications—such as that Dr. Bell had come to confront Dr. Rauch, armed for the defence of New York Quarantine, but when the day of battle arrived, behold the New York Quarantine station was surrendered not only readily, but with apparent gusto. Dr. Bell said that the quarantine equipment had been allowed to fall into disgraceful