

as formerly (I speak of 40 or 50 years ago), of the “sthenic” character, such as almost universally prevailed, at all events, in the British Isles at that period, the lancet and its accessories would most assuredly come into vogue once again. But we know that the type of most diseases, even of the young and robust, is of the very opposite character to that I have but just alluded to, and that the Asthenic type has now become the prevalent characteristic, calling, of course, for the very opposite treatment from the first onset of the disease, in which the even cautious use of the lancet would be almost certain death.

Such very marked changes in types of disease must, of course, be of a very gradual nature ; it is very unlikely that they should occur suddenly, and it is in consequence of this slow and almost imperceptible change that they remain for a long time almost unnoticed. Still, so far back as 1833, do I distinctly recollect, whilst prosecuting my professional education at the London Hospital Medical School, that Dr. Thos. Davies, the then lecturer on the practice of medicine, laid down almost as an axiom : “Gentlemen, you need not expect that diseases, particularly of a febrile or inflammatory character, will continue to run a uniform course ; there *are types in diseases*, as in other things, and some of you may live to see important changes take place, necessitating important changes of treatment, although I may not.” I recollect as distinctly as if I heard them but yesterday, these truly prophetic words of this very talented physician, who has left some very valuable contributions to medical literature. I am a living witness of the truth of his remarks, and am too happy thus to record my humble tribute of respect to the memory of so talented a physician. Thus the approach of change was discerned afar off, as distinctly as a storm is foreseen by the rising of the clouds in the distant horizon.

It would be a very desirable thing to ascertain when or at what period this remarkable change began to be apparent, but I have a kind of theory (and every one has a right to a theory) that about the time of the appearance of the epidemic or Asiatic Cholera in Europe, say about 1831, that a gradual change might have been observable in some particular localities, though so