

ill was he when I had him conveyed to the Montreal General Hospital, that one of the resident medical officers of that institution remarked to me, on the occasion of my paying him a second visit, on the day of his admission, that he would be "carried out in his coffin;" but he recovered.

A young man, comfortably circumstanced, a tailor, who was seized with fever shortly after reaching this city last summer, whom I sent into the Montreal General Hospital, who ultimately recovered, and was discharged cured in October, again sent for me in February of the present year, for a second attack of the same fever. He has also quite recovered.

Two sisters, respectable and well conducted young women, who entered the Hospital at Pointe St. Charles, convalescent from the fever which they had gone through at the old sheds by the canal side, became nurses; after a period of between four and five weeks, they both again took fever, one in a milder form than the other; of these one recovered, the other died.

Three cases which I had discharged soon after taking charge of the Wards allotted to me in November last, at the Montreal General Hospital, and which had been successfully treated by my predecessor, returned in the course of my second month's attendance, and were again admitted, one on my own side of the house, and two into Dr. Crawford's Wards, with fever. A very respectable and well educated man who was under my care in the same institution for fever, complicated with or attended by jaundice, and whom I discharged perfectly convalescent, entered, within six weeks after, the Hotel Dieu in this city, and ultimately died from a second attack of fever *without* jaundice.

These cases will suffice (but I could multiply them) to establish the grounds of my dissent from Dr. D.'s premises; my object is merely to correct a statement, which, although only hazarded by Dr. Douglass, might otherwise be construed into a basis, for asserting immunity from second attacks of this disease, and which might prove as disappointing and baseless as a vision's fabric. I feel confident that that gentleman (whom I have not the pleasure of knowing even personally) will excuse these remarks, as they have been made with the single motive of truthfully recording the results of my own observation and experience with reference to this interesting disease.

I now proceed to the third head of enquiry, under which I proposed to arrange the consideration of this subject—its period of incubation. It must be admitted that great uncertainty envelopes this point. In the histories of many of the vessels which left Great Britain and Ireland last season, it was stated, that within from four to ten days after setting sail, there having been a sick person embarked, either a child or an adult, fever broke out, and the massacre gradually increased. In the third case recorded by myself in my former communication, the young carpenter had been at work for eight days; had enjoyed perfect health during that time; had used every possible precaution to avoid coming into collision with the sick, but was seized with fever the day subsequent to that upon which he had apparently inhaled the poisonous miasm through the aperture made

in the roof of the shed. In the first case the foreman was clearly under the influence of the poison on the third day after exposure; and in my second case it was as evidently on the evening of the third or the morning of the fourth day that the disease developed itself in the widow. At the old sheds, among the medical gentlemen and assistants, various periods between four and twelve days elapsed before the primary symptoms manifested themselves. In the cases of the late excellent steward and matron of the Montreal General Hospital, both of whom had rendered most efficient services in that institution, from the day of the admission of the first case of fever, and who undauntingly persevered in the performance of their arduous duties with the most Christian benevolence and untiring zeal; we saw these exemplary persons at last sink under the influence of this accumulated poison, the one after five months' exposure, the other after seven. In the latter of these cases the entire illness occupied a period of less than *thirty* hours, affording one of the most extraordinary instances of asthenia, or complete annihilation of the heart's functions that I have ever seen or read of, except in cases of pure poisoning. As the result of my personal inquiries and observations on this subject, I should be inclined to consider from three to six days as the period of incubation of this disease; this, as a matter of course, influenced and controlled by the previous condition of the recipient and his power of resistance. Differing as this affection does from those whose incubatory periods have been established by experience, we find in it nevertheless an analogy in those other diseases dependant upon the action on the blood of specific agents, as in erysipelas, puerperal fever, and all those constitutional maladies caused, accompanied, or followed by secondary deposits, so well expressed by French pathologists under the title of "Infection Purulente."

Let me now proceed to notice the complications manifested in its progress, or, I should rather say, the indices of the special operation of the proximate cause upon particular tissues or organs; for I am free to acknowledge it as my own opinion, that all the local characters assumed by this disease are clearly referrible to the one and selfsame cause, the spanæmic condition of the blood. It is true, that in one class of cases the pressure of the disease seemed to fall upon the vascular system, in some portion of this from the heart, to the capillaries; in another, the whole cerebro-spinal axis, or only certain portions of nerve tissue manifested the disorder to which they were subjected; and this they shewed either by exaltation, diminution, or perversion of function. In a third class of cases the absorbent system, and principally the venous portion of this exhibited the existence of a foreign noxious matter somewhere, which interfered with and finally destroyed the exercise of its function. As I shall have occasion to revert to this matter at a future period, I will now only arrange the various manifestations of this malady. But before attempting any thing like a detail of these pathological conditions, I beg to state in *limine*, that I do not remember having met with a single case which was entitled to the appellation of an "itis," by which nosologists ordinarily recognize and designate acute inflammatory