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THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC.

At the present time influenza is prevalent over the greater part of the American continent, and in many cities the death-rate has increased greatly in consequence. On the continent of Europe it is also rife, but not universal. Berlin, Hamburg and St. Petersburg, from reports, have suffered very severely. In Great Britain certain sections of the country have suffered severely, while in others but few cases have been reported. In the South of Scotland the disease has been very general and severe, while in London but comparatively few cases have been reported. This unequal distribution has also been noticed on this side of the Atlantic and on the continent of Europe. The disease appeared some weeks ago in this country and is slowly extending.

In the above respects the present epidemic presents a marked contrast to that which we had to deal with two years ago. The latter was characterized by the great rapidity of its propagation and its universality. Within three weeks the entire continents of Europe and America were passed over by the all-pervading poison; and it is safe we think to say that more than half of the population suffered from its action. In the present epidemic the extension was much slower, and not nearly the same proportion of people have been affected.

Although a great deal has been written on the subject we can hardly say that we have made any advance in understanding the nature of the disease or its treatment. A great deal, however, has been ascertained about the symptomatology and after