

liable. In 1510 a disease visited Great Britain, characterized by "a greivous pain in the head, heaviness, difficult breathing, loss of strength, restlessness, hoarseness, etc. The first day it was without spitting, but about the 7th or 8th day much viscid plegm was spat up, others, (though fewer) spat up only water and froth. When they began to spit, the cough and shortness of breath became easier."

This account was by a chronographer living at the time and quoted in the work of Thompson, *Annals of Influenza*, 1852. In the same work is an account by Thomas Short, of an epidemic of terrible severity which swept over Europe in 1557, and is said to have also reached as far as America, while others claim that the first American epidemic occurred in 1627, when it broke out in Massachusetts and Connecticut, thence spreading southward to the West Indies, and into South America as far as Chili. Probably, however, the earliest recorded outbreak occurred in 1617 as described by Webster, in "a Brief History of epidemic and pestilential diseases."

The outbreak of 1557, occurred in England during September, after an unusually wet season. The following is the description given: "Presently after many catarrhs occurred, followed quickly by a more severe cough, pain of the side, difficulty of breathing and a fever. The pain was neither violent nor pricking, but mild. The third day they expectorated freely. The sixth, seventh or at farthest the eighth, all who had that pain of the side died, but such as were blooded on the first or second day recovered on the fourth or fifth; but bleeding on the last two days did no good. All were worse at night than by day, such as recovered were long valetudinary and had a weak stomach."

This epidemic was without doubt malignant Grippe. Its mortality was frightful, probably owing to the un-

sanitary condition of the age. According to Wilson in Pepper's system of Medicine in a small town near Madrid two thousand people died. The treatment was purging and bleeding, and of the fatal cases all had been bled. In Delft it carried off five thousand of the poor inhabitants, while it is said that all through Europe thousands were affected simultaneously and that the populace of entire cities fell ill in a day.

From the sixteenth century onward epidemics of greater or lesser severity have affected more or less the civilized world. Some of the most widely spread occurred in 1627, 1732-33, 1767, 1781-82, 1830-32, 1850-51, 1857-58, 1874-75, 1889-present time.

The details of these while interesting from an historical point of view are of little value to us as general practitioners, and hence entirely beyond the scope of this paper. Before however proceeding to consider the etiology, etc., of Influenza it will be well to direct attention to a peculiarity of our latest visitor. Occuring first in the winter of 1889 the epidemic was widely spread and markedly severe. Since then it has recurred regularly year after year. The outbreak usually takes place in the late winter, or early spring and continues more or less for several months. As far as I can learn all previous epidemics ran their course in a few months and then disappeared not to occur again for several years. It seems almost as if it were becoming endemic with us rather than epidemic. That our trans-atlantic brethren are similarly afflicted seems evident from the numerous articles on the ruinous phases of Grippe in their current medical literature.

I think at the present time all are agreed that Influenza is a zymotic or germ disease, whether or no the true germ has been isolated is still sub-judice. Dr. Kanthack before the Harveian Society of London, in March 1894, demonstrated cultivation and