

there was of the treatment pursued. One of my patients, a Mrs. G——, a young vigorous woman in whom the nausea was most intense, with two or three slight hæmorrhages from the stomach, made so good a recovery that she had been dismissed with the usual warning. A fortnight later she visited some friends twenty miles away, ate a hearty dinner, and again became ill. She was seen by one of the most able physicians in the county, who diagnosed ulcer of the stomach, which, whether true or not, resulted in her very rapid death in a condition of coma. I was certain then, and am still, that hers was one of the cases I have been describing, and that the very strangeness of it was what had deceived one of the most careful and conscientious men in the profession.

It was during the second year that an entire family, with the exception of one, was attacked—all within a few days. During the third or fourth day of her illness the eldest daughter, a healthy girl of about seventeen years, passed into a raving delirium, and very rapidly died in a profound coma. Two days later a younger brother passed through the same conditions and met the same fate. The day following it fell to my lot to take charge of the mother and the remaining children. Owing to the savage relations that still exist in the profession, and will perhaps forever, I had to see them alone, and so could learn but little of the clinical history of those that were dead; but the living were each an exact counterpart of what I had already seen in other homes, and I was permitted the enjoyment of seeing them all recover. I have no way of knowing that my treatment had much to do with the happy results, nor that I could have aided by the suggestion of the same means in saving those that were lost.

All the cases of which I have spoken, except three, occurred within a radius of two miles, and it will be observed how very closely my description conforms to that given of the "milk-sickness" of the Middle and Southwestern States of fifty years ago, and of which so very little is now, and apparently was even then, known, when it was such a source of terror to the early settlers of those districts. The season of the year, the lassitude, nausea, inactivity of the bowels, absence of fever, flabby, furred tongue, abhorrence of food, and the profound coma, all make the two conditions almost absolutely identical. In one single case I found a profuse vomiting of that deep indigo water described by Beach in his article on the milk-sickness, read before the American Medical Association in 1883.

It is a matter for real scientific regret that so little that is authentic has been written regarding the clinical history of this strange disease, which still presents itself occasionally in some scattered districts