

T H E

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THE PRESENT SMALL-POX EPIDEMIC.

The epidemic at present existing in the Lower St. Lawrence presents some very striking features. Although nearly 500 cases in all have occurred, there have only been two deaths; and of these one occurred through a complication probably not connected with the disease, and the other was in a very debilitated subject.

The degree of infectiousness seems to be very high; and the fact that the patients for the most part are only slightly ill, makes it unusually difficult to ensure isolation. It has usually been found relatively easy to eradicate the disease from country districts owing to the greater facilities for enforcing isolation, but in the present case infection seems to have twice occurred from cases on the border of New Brunswick. Fortunately, the disease has not spread in our larger cities.

The extreme mildness is characteristic of the type of small-pox which has been so abundant in the Middle West of this continent for two or three years past, and has been the despair of the State Boards of Health. The condition has been carefully studied by experts in various parts of the continent and pronounced to be undoubtedly small-pox though of the varioloid type. It is noticeable that secondary fever rarely occurs and that the pustules dry up more rapidly than in the typical form.