

tering fringe of settlements on or near the lake. The soil was heavy clay, and the surface very gently undulating. The water supply mainly derived from the rainfall. The watercourses were more or less obstructed by the debris of the forest, so that the swamps held their moisture all summer, or until dried by slow evaporation or percolation. At this time miasmatic diseases were so prevalent that very few passed a summer without an attack of ague, and bilious remittent fever was common, and sometimes fatal, especially among the unacclimated. It was no uncommon thing to find, during the hot weather of summer, cases of ague or remittent in every house in a settlement, and frequently every member of a family would be attacked at once. Unacclimated persons who were healthy and vigorous sometimes passed the first summer without being attacked, but the fact that they developed it early the next year showed that the poison, though dormant, was still present, and had preserved its virulence through the long period of winter, ready to show itself on the first occasion of the lowering of the powers of life. When the system became saturated with the miasmatic poison the patient was generally attacked every summer, as soon as the weather became warm, and it stuck to him either continuously or with intervals of apparent convalescence until the approach of cold weather. This would go on for perhaps from three to five years, when the susceptibility to the disease seemed to be worn out, but it left the patient with a constitution so shattered that it took years to recuperate, and left him an easy prey to the first serious attack of disease.

The miasmatic poison was so omnipresent that it complicated almost every other disease. I remember my father saying that he had scarcely seen an uncomplicated case of pneumonia, and the man who ignored its presence had little success in treatment. Quinia would check as it certainly, and I think in much smaller quantities than we now require. From ten to twelve grains in two grain doses rarely if ever failed to stop the ague for at least seven to fourteen days.

At the same time there was a peculiar and very fatal disease among cattle. It had the local name of murrain. The animal