

possesses, but that the morbid matter is suspended in the atmosphere, and carried by currents to different parts, all the inhabitants of the localities which it visits being equally exposed to an attack of the disease. A third opinion, however, has recently been gaining ground, and is now held by the majority of those who have bestowed much attention on the subject, viz:—that the materies morbi of Cholera is organic in its nature, and *portable*, that is, may be conveyed by individuals in clothing or merchandize to distant places, and finding admission into the systems of persons, circumstances being favorable to its development, the disease manifests itself. Some believe, among whom we may place our author, that this Cholera matter, or specific virus, exists in the form of a cell. Of course this is mere hypothesis, as no peculiar and determinate organic form has, up to the present, been discovered in the ejections and dejections of Cholera patients, or in the atmosphere during the prevalence of Cholera epidemics. From what we know of the introduction of Cholera into Canada we believe in its *portability*. We further believe, however, that having once obtained access to a place the virus undergoes multiplication and intensification in a ratio corresponding to the anti-hygienic conditions present; and that there is a state of the system which predisposes persons to an attack. The first cases which occurred at Quebec and Montreal during the epidemic of last year were passengers by the *John Howell* and *Glenmanna*, two vessels which passed Quarantine without being detained, as there had been no case of Cholera on board during the passage, or at the time of their arrival at Grosse Isle. A few days after these passengers were admitted into the Montreal General Hospital, cases of Cholera occurred in different parts of the city. It first appeared in the filthy habitations of the poorer classes in the suburbs, and seized upon the miserable debilitated debauchee. Gradually, however, the number of victims increased, and the poison having become more concentrated, many strong and healthy citizens in the middle and upper ranks of society were cut off.

“Besides the facts,” says Dr. Snow, “which prove that Cholera is communicated from person to person, there are others which show, first, that being present in the same room with a patient, and attending on him, do not necessarily expose a person to the morbid poison; and, secondly, that it is not always requisite that a person should be very near a Cholera patient in order to take the disease, as the morbid matters producing it may be transmitted to a distance. It used to be generally assumed that if Cholera were a catching, or communicable, disease, it must spread by effluvia given off from the patient into the surrounding air, and inhaled by others into the lungs. This assumption led to very conflicting opinions respecting the disease. A little reflection shows,