

Thus prepared by reading, and rendered skeptical by conflicting doctrines and opinions, I entered upon the duties of my office. Daily reports were sent in to the Board of Magistrates, and to my office as executive officer of the Medical Board, from practitioners, and other sources of information. It will be admitted that under these circumstances I was favorably placed to become well acquainted with the pest from its first appearance in America, in 1832, and the second invasion in 1834; nor have I remained unmindful of subsequent irruptions.

Of the contents of this book I have often spoken, for years past, with medical men, and as often have been urged to publish my views. I do so now, principally to fix a point in history:

*The introduction of a new malady into a new country*, and to record the experience I acquired in the beginning, and which has been confirmed by every case since then. Many of my statements come into direct collision with those of previous and even of present writers. The only apology I can offer for the difference is, mine are the result of personal observations carefully made on the patient, unbiassed by abstract theories, and an erroneous physiology,