

in Southern Virginia and North Carolina, and of peat marshes everywhere, no matter under what temperature they are found ; is as fatal to it as that formed by the disintegration of Laurentian rock ; though both these soils are largely comingled with decayed vegetable matter. If peat moss is fatal to the incubation of the *germ* of malarial diseases, may it not contain a principle equally fatal to the Amœboid parasite *after its development in the human body* ? I think this suggestion not unworthy of consideration.

The ubiquitous Endemic Fever of these Territories, often of a very formidable character, *is unquestionably of Malarial origin*, and can only be successfully treated under a clear recognition and acceptance of this fact ; why, in the St. Clair flats and other marshy districts of south-western Ontario, it (Malaria) should produce most commonly a simple intermittent ; and here, where the Summer temperature is little different, a severe and formidable remittent ; supposing the microbe in both instances to be one and the same ; or why its malignancy should be so greatly increased, (as it unquestionably is,) by the presence of certain *mineral or chemical ingredients* in the soil from which it originates, are questions not yet satisfactorily answered ; but the facts are capable of being demonstrated. Among others, may be mentioned the accessibility of its habitat to sea or saline water ; as in the Tuscan (Maremma,) or in the bayous, tidal marshes, and embouchures of rivers, in tropical and semi-tropical regions subjected to tidal influences. The presence of sulphur or sulphurets in the volcanic soil of Italy and various others similarly constituted ; * of salts of iron in the ferruginous soils of the West Coast of Africa, of Hong Kong and Arracan, to which Sir Ranald Martin long since attributed their intense insalubrity, to which may now unquestionably be added the material commonly known throughout these North-West Territories as *Alkali*, which abounds so almost universally over enormous tracts of very various country here ; saturating not only the soil, but the waters of large landlocked lakes, and of all ponds and marshes having no outlet, over thousands of square miles of territory, and consisting mainly of salts of potash and soda, probably originating in the ashes of burnt forests and prairie grasses, which, during thousands of years, have grown up and been consumed by fire over these illimitable plains ; to the presence alone of which saline ingredients in the soil. I have long attributed the extreme severity and too often fatal character, of the Malarial Endemic Fever, of this otherwise salubrious north-western land. But it must always be remembered, that in regions where Malaria at certain seasons is largely generated, there is no single condition which tends so greatly and unmistakably to intensify its malefic influence as the continued prevalence during the summer and autumn months of very high ranges of diurnal temperature.

* Mr. Wm. North observes : "The volcanic nature of the Italian peninsula, generally, may be taken into the list of causes which contribute to its insalubrity."