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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF SMALL-POX IN TORONTO.*

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In response to the request of your honoured President, I have written in the following brief notes the history of the outbreak of variola, which took place in Toronto, in September and October, 1892, about a year ago.

The points which are of special interest in the histories of these few cases are (1) the great difficulty, as well as the great importance of making an early diagnosis; (2) the difficulty of distinguishing in some cases the symptoms and signs of varioloid from those of vaccinia; and (3) the great value of general vaccination as a prevention to the spread of small-pox.

On Sept. 12th, a patient was admitted into No. 5 Ward of the Toronto General Hospital, suffering from interstitial hepatitis and nephritis, with cardiac complication. His temperature was elevated when he entered the hospital, and a rash shortly afterwards appeared which proved to be that of confluent small-pox. The patient died during the pustular stage, thirteen days after his admission into the hospital.

The ward-tender H., who attended the patient above mentioned, was taken ill Sept. 25th and the eruption appeared on the 28th. This case ran the typical course of a moderately severe form of variola. The rash was slightly confluent over the face and discrete over the remainder of the body. The temperature chart, as you will see, was also quite typical, high during the stage of invasion, nearly normal during the first five days of the eruption and rising again when suppuration took place. Unfortunately the conjunctivæ were severely attacked and the sight of one eye was permanently injured. Otherwise he made an excellent recovery. He had never been vaccinated.