

sanitary district—a report which is brimful of interest to the student of etiology. Dr. Bond gives an interesting sketch of the course of an outbreak of typhoid fever, which commenced at Cirencester and worked its way back to its point of origin some six months after, having made a circuit of ten or twelve miles. A young woman who had been in service at Cirencester went home to her village with enteric fever. An impression got about in the neighbourhood that the disease was not infectious, and the result was that a sister, who was allowed to sleep with her, took the disease, and she was followed by three other members of the family, and by the occupants of a neighbouring cottage, who had been in the habit of frequenting the infected house. From this village the disease was carried to another three miles off by a man who visited a house in the first village, where his brother was lying ill with typhoid, and took away two children to his own house. The man and his father were both attacked by typhoid and the father died. Two younger sons who, though they slept in the house with their father and brother for a few days after the latter were taken ill, were removed as soon as the nature of the illness was distinctly made out, were also struck down, and one died. Meanwhile an old woman who was sent by the Board of Guardians as a nurse to the family, and who, having acted for some years as a nurse in an infectious hospital, might have been thought to be fever proof, succumbed to the disease. From this case, or possibly from it and another, the infection spread to a young woman, who appears to have washed their clothes, and here it seems to have rested.

The moral of this little history Dr. Bond takes to be that what is commonly called ‘typhoid’ fever is, under certain circumstances, an excessively infectious disease. Whether it be communicated by emanations from the sick person himself or from his excretions, is practically not a matter of much moment, so long as it be once admitted that the atmosphere of the sick room and the clothes and other harbourers of infection which have come from it may be the media through which it may find its way into the system of susceptible persons, and so infect them. ‘To some persons,’ says Dr. Bond, ‘such an inference may seem to be so obvious as to be a mere truism; and yet it is certain that there is a considerable number of medical men, who, from their experience of the general impunity with which typhoid patients are treated in the wards of general hospitals, and in the well-ventilated rooms of the well-to-do, without the disease spreading, assume that its infectiveness is not more virulent in the cottages of the poor. I am convinced that such an idea is most fallacious,