

and exposure, the local fever will often prevail in only a part of them, while the others will be perfectly free of it, and so much is this the case that it has long excited suspicion of the improper state, or defective discipline of the vessels in which it occurs. The severity of local fevers is often capable of being distinctly traced to some of the ordinary occasions or existing causes of common fever, such as dirty and ill ventilated houses, choked drains, exposed privies, or the presence of decaying vegetable or animal substances—establishing the fact that paroxysmal fevers, deriving their origin from a general cause, are as much under the influence of local circumstances as those continued or typhus fevers which are attributed either to specific contagion, or the effect of a malaria or miasm confined to a particular spot and limited in its effects.

The fevers of our villages and towns have always some symptoms plainly indicative of their malarious origin, though differing materially from those of the country; those of a class of the inhabitants or of the people in certain streets, will again exhibit a particular set of symptoms and run a particular course—in fact, we will often find the people of a single house to suffer from a remittent fever of the most malignant kind, that the same thing will occur from year to year, though the occupants be changed, and that the immediate cause of this is to be seen by a superficial observer. Among the labourers on the Welland Canal, during the occurrence before alluded to, I also met with a decided fact of this kind. In a particular row of shanties the fever, at an early stage, put on the appearance of the most malignant typhus from which many deaths took place, a circumstance that led to their being deserted, and the inhabitants spread over other parts of the works; individual cases of the same character of fever were now and then met with, but it never became so general as it had been at that point. The effect of this set of causes is not limited to the production of a greater or less degree of malignancy, or tendency to typhous symptoms in fevers, we will find the peculiarities of the season, whether they consist in a tendency to bowel complaints or to an inflammatory state of particular organs, equally under the influence of the same local causes, and that spots will be more than ordinarily fertile of such affections.

The effect of dirty and slovenly habits among people, and the continued and free use of spirituous liquors can scarcely escape the notice of a casual observer; the first of these may be included under some observations already made, and in the course of these sketches we have endeavoured to point out the most prominent results of the latter. Such people are always the first and most numerous victims of every epidemic that appears in the country, and will be found most liable to the bilious affections and their consequences to which our common malaria gives rise.

In the epidemic constitution of the air we have a cause of the modification of fevers applicable to those of both the town and country. Sydenham used an expression of this kind to account for the frequently occurring changes that he saw in the fevers of his day, and we find European practitioners still employing it for the same purpose, though showing a disposition to attribute varieties of fever to distinct or specific