

the Oriental, or Bagdad, boil. These views are not likely, when we look at Job's treatment of himself. It is not likely he would use a potsherd in these conditions. Nor is it all likely that he would apply such an article, if his malady had been boils, or ordinary ulcers. There would not be crusts to remove, nor itching to appease. The disfigurement, loss of flesh, sleeplessness, detestation of life, depth of the sores to the bones, all point to true tubercular leprosy. The word rendered boil could be rendered sore, so that the text is not inconsistent with the view that Job's disease was the one just named.

III. EPIDEMICS.—There are several forms of diseases and sudden deaths mentioned in the Scriptures. Some of these references are indefinite ; and we are at a loss to know what the actual disease may have been. Still, with a careful examination of the brief accounts given, and with what is known of epidemic and endemic diseases of the east, an approximately close answer can be given. In some instances it would appear as if no special disease was the cause of the heavy mortality ; but rather a direct visitation from God, as a punishment.

(a) *Febrile Diseases*.—Several forms of febrile and inflammatory diseases are recorded. These diseases are very common in eastern countries. There is loss of strength, rapid pulse, increased heat of body. There may be mental derangement, and, if the disease continues for some time, loss of flesh.

A common form of febrile disturbance in the vicinity of the Red Sea is malaria. This is usually intermittent, or remittent, in type. It is sometimes very severe, and in hot countries may assume a malignant and fatal form. The chills and fever alternate. The great fevers, or continued fevers, are evidently mentioned. These latter, in an epidemic and contagious form, have been frequently observed in the countries with which the sacred writers have to do. See the accounts of Simon's wife's mother ; and the nobleman's son. These cases appear to be cases of continued fever. These fevers recover slowly, so that we have here clear evidence of miraculous healing. These were clearly