

**NERVOUS SEQUELÆ OF INFLUENZA.**—When a storm has swept across the country, although the bulk of damage which it has done may be visible at once, there are many of the effects of its violence which do not immediately obtrude themselves. Trees may have been shattered and buildings wrecked, growing crops may have been ruined and live stock destroyed, but its ravages do not stop there. This country has recently been exposed to the full force of a severe epidemic—an epidemic which the obscurity of its origin and the suddenness and severity of its attack have combined to render even more alarming than others with which our acquaintance is greater, we cannot say closer. The full force of the epidemic has now, it may be hoped, spent itself. But as the storm leaves behind it trees which are blighted but not destroyed, so this disease apparently so trivial, seems not rarely to be succeeded by conditions of nervous exhaustion and depression, to combat which requires all the art and skill which knowledge and experience can suggest. There seems to be little reason to doubt that the poison of influenza has a special influence on the nervous system. Numerous sequelæ of the disease have been described affecting the nervous system in its various parts, both central and peripheral; and there are not a few who hold strongly the opinion that in all its manifestations, both primary and secondary, it is essentially a nervous disease. But whether this view be correct or not, it will scarcely be questioned that the disease gives rise to symptoms of nervous disturbance, both widespread and severe. In estimating the amount and the frequency of such disturbance, allowance must of course be made for errors of observation. No doubt there has been too much tendency lately to ascribe morbid conditions of various kinds to a precedent attack of influenza, and this disease, already sufficiently loaded with its own burden, has been made to bear a share of others from which it had a right to claim exemption. Thus a patient may date the commencement of symptoms which now clearly point to cerebral tumor from an attack of influenza, but careful inquiry may elicit the fact that the only evidence of this was an attack of headache and vomiting, probably the first attack of this character associated with intracranial growth. So also, no doubt, with other conditions; but even after making a liberal allowance for such errors on the part of the patient or other observer, a considerable residuum is left in which one is driven to acknowledge an incidence of cause and effect; and if this is true of actual structural change in the nervous system, it is no less true of the serious and alarming conditions of what is known as functional disorder, which may go on to manifest itself in profound mental alteration. The excessive depression and lassitude which follow an attack of influenza are too familiar to require more than

a mere mention, and in highly neurotic patients such a condition is often quite sufficient to upset entirely the somewhat unstable mental equilibrium. This was no doubt the case with a poor woman who a few days ago was found sitting on her kitchen floor in front of the fire tugging at a clothes line, which was twisted round her neck. Upstairs her two children, one a boy of two and the other a baby of six months, were found strangled. Evidence was to the effect that although previously a healthy woman and living happily with her husband and family, she had become much depressed after an attack of influenza, and this depression had apparently been succeeded by mental derangement. Many similar cases are on record, and they show the profound effect which the poison of this disease has upon the highest nervous centres.

**SUMMER DIARRHŒA OF INFANTS.**—Clinical experience, as shown in the successful treatment of gastric disorders by irrigation of the stomach, and the antiseptic treatment of the entire alimentary canal, forces the conviction that these disorders which are under discussion are the result of decomposition processes, which are caused by bacterial agencies. Starting with the hypothesis that the contents of the alimentary canal are the substratum from which the intoxication which gives rise to gastro-intestinal disease proceeds, the following questions are submitted:

1. Do the contents of the stomach in dyspepsia in young children have a relatively greater quantity of micro-organisms than the contents of the stomach of healthy children?
2. Is there a relation which can be determined between the relative quantity of germs in the stomach of sick infants and the intensity of the disease from which they are suffering?
3. What are the relations between the relative quantity of germs in the contents of the stomach and the intensity of the disease, on the one hand, and climatic factors, which influence the destruction of the milk, the factor of temperature particularly on the other hand?

To answer the foregoing questions, a quantitative bacteriological analysis was necessary, of contents taken from the stomach of a living child.

Investigations of this character on an extensive scale were made by the author, and from these it was concluded that in the acute dyspepsias of infants one has to deal with spores, which are antagonistic to the acid of the contents of the stomach, are introduced with the nutriment, and develop luxuriantly at the temperature of the body. The phenomena of severe dyspepsias and especially those of cholera infantum, are the phenomena of acute intoxication; hence it is reasonable to seek for the cause of the disease in the poisons gen-