

with a pulse ranging from 120 to 160; throat much affected, efflorescence dense and dark colored, urine suppressed. In this case ordered colchici and diuretics for suppression of urine; to allay heat of surface warm baths 98° every six hours if necessary. For the throat the solution of carbolate of glycerine, and cleansing of mouth occasionally with sulphurous acid lotion, ammoniated spts. as a stimulant.

Notwithstanding that this case received the most zealous attention, using Tinct. Belladonna in addition to other treatment to allay spinal irritation. Child sank away completely exhausted on eighth day. The throat affection or angina and the ozena being intense, with prominent head symptoms throughout. I subjoin a table of temperature with rate of pulse, with the remark that the temperature was always sensibly diminished by the baths, but the abatement of perspiration was never of long continuance.

2nd Day of Illness	Tempt... 103 $\frac{3}{4}$	Pulse... 140
3rd " "	" ... 104 $\frac{1}{2}$	" ... 160
4th " "	" ... 104	" ... 156
5th " "	" ... 103	" ... 149
6th " "	" ... 102 $\frac{3}{4}$	" ... 140
7th " "	" ... 103	" ... 120

8th Day.—Child sinking rapidly, very great lowering of temperature. Pulse 150. Ozean very troublesome and offensive, throat affection intense. Has taken drinks well, but nothing seems to do child any good. Sank and died at 2 a.m. of 9th. No congestion of capillaries and no lividity of surface of body.

Thus ended a series of cases to me most interesting, and of sufficiently putrescent character to deserve the appellation of putrid scarlatina, in so far as the symptoms and appearance of the surface of the body is concerned.

OBSERVATIONS.

The foregoing cases have been cited as examples of malignant scarlatina, so terribly fatal in character, and will furnish a sort of ground work for a few brief observations respecting the malignant character assumed so frequently by this and other allied affections in Montreal.

I observe 1st, that the habitat or situation in which these cases occurred were usually badly drained, low lying or poorer districts of the city, giving colour to the supposition that sewerage gas or other effluvia from human offal was one of the chief factors in determining the type which an otherwise ordinary attack should assume.

2nd.—With regard to the constitutional peculiarities of such patients, I find almost invariably that

they have been persons of low vitality from some cause or other, as previous bad health; the strumous cachexia; or some other circumstances of a debilitating character. So far as I have been able to observe, the hygienic relations of such patients have been of a most unsatisfactory character, insomuch that, given a case of scarlatina, the constitutional cachexia, ill feeding, want of cleanliness, with neglect of personal comforts will so far prejudice the prognosis as to determine its unfavourable character; per contra, well fed, well clothed, warmly-housed, children free from any strumous diathesis, are as certainly favourable to a safe prognosis. This rule, however, I do not mean to say is absolute, because the most vigorous constitution may succumb to an overwhelming putrid poison, and in such cases drain gas will I think be found to be the chief factor.

Again, how can we account for the concurrence during a season like the present, and also in some that are past, of so many diseases assuming the malignant type, as we have seen illustrated in cases of malignant variola in some quarters; malignant diphtheria in another; and malignant scarlatina in another. While but very recently we saw an epidemic of malignant spotted fever, or cerebro-spinal meningitis, in our midst, and the cases of malignant typhoid fever during the last two autumnal seasons have been numerous.

My own conviction in this regard is that the assumption of the malignant type in some cases and not in others of all these various forms of disease is to be looked for, not so much in the amount of materies morbi present in the system as to other unfavourable circumstances. 1st, to the inhalation of an atmosphere, contaminated with disease producing emanations; in this city perhaps chiefly drain gas. 2nd, to the unfavourable physical condition in which the patient is found at the time, from the continued influence of circumstances unfavourable to the preservation of the health and vigor of the constitution. The depressing circumstances of mind, body and estate under which so many exist do, I believe, result in producing a state of things similar to that produced by the mining engineer who has laid his train of gunpowder, to which alone the match is required to be applied to show the disastrous consequences of such previous influences.

Why should so many cases of this type have occurred during the past and previous years. Because I think in at least the case of typhoid fever, it will be found that, with the lowering of the city supply of water, and the consequent greater accumulation of filth and the emanation of drain gas, the number of