

In the reports for 1870, twenty-five deaths are registered from spinal disease. In 1871 thirty-six are referred to the same cause, and in 1873 thirty-seven. The return is given under the head of Diseases of the Nervous System, and whether or not it is intended to refer to cerebro-spinal meningitis I am unable to determine. In the table for 1872 the returns of deaths from spinal disease are from 18 counties, some reporting only one death, a few as many as four; these figures would hardly indicate an epidemic disease. I find, however, that in the table for 1873, 128 deaths from spinal disease are reported, but there is also a return of 324 deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis; and as the number from spinal disease has so much increased it is probable that some of the deaths referred to it were caused by the fever which in this year visited as an epidemic so many parts of the Province. Notices of its prevalence appeared at the time in the press in various parts, in some places these indicated the visitation of a very severe epidemic. The report for 1873 shows that it visited thirty-three counties, only seven reporting no deaths from it. In the counties of Huron, Perth and Norfolk, it seems to have prevailed most extensively, the last two returning 38 deaths each, the former 35. Brant and Elgin report 14 deaths each; Kent and Middlesex each 18; Waterloo and Wellington each 12; Wentworth, 13; Oxford, 10. These counties are all west of Toronto. To the east of Toronto it also prevailed, but with less severity. York returns 11 deaths; Peterboro', 15; Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, 10. Nine counties to the west of Toronto report under eight deaths each, and nine in the eastern part of Ontario report under eight deaths, several only 1 or 2. These returns indicate a very extensive range. The remarks of Dr. Bray show that in one county the reported deaths were far short of the number that occurred and the same was probably the case elsewhere. I have learned little about the disease in other places and even in Hamilton have not been able to ascertain the proportion of deaths, but my impression is that it was large; some of the patients were cut-off after a brief illness, in others the duration was several weeks; a few recovered slowly, but from all I can learn more than half the cases in this city proved fatal. I do not know that any observations have been made that throw light upon the cause, or explain the wide occurrence of the disease in this particular year.

The returns from fever in the tables of the Registrar-General are not definite; some are reported as fever, others remittent, and some typhoid; it is to be hoped that under a more complete system of registration for the Dominion the reports will be more specific, and the particular forms of fever noted. In the vicinity of Hamilton the fevers which prevail are the intermittent and typhoid, the former sometimes quotidian, but generally of the tertian form. Formerly remittent fever is said to have prevailed; in a report on miasmatic fevers by John T. Metcalf, M.D., United States, it is stated that, "In proportion as countries previously malarious are cleared up and thickly settled periodical fevers disappear, in many instances, to be replaced by typhoid." It may be in accordance with this that we now find from July to November, especially, typhoid fever prevailing in Hamilton, rather than remittent, as noted by practitioners some years ago.

The memorandum with which I have been favoured by Dr. Bray, of Chatham, shows that in the more decidedly malarious section of Kent and Essex, different conditions exist. "The counties of Kent and Essex are very level, and large plains and marshes border on the River Thames and Lake St. Clair; in spring we have freshets which inundate the country for miles; and when the waters recede and the sun beats down on the surface decomposition begins, hence the source of malaria. As a result we have bilious, remittent, intermittent and continued fevers; we have very little typhoid fever, but our bilious and remittent fevers take on a great many typhoid symptoms." The number of deaths from typhoid fever in each year, represented in these reports is large: 316 deaths in 1870; 261 in 1871; 329 in 1872; and 401 in 1873; it appears to have prevailed in all parts of the Province. In 1872 only two counties report no deaths—Algoma and Peterboro'; in 1873 Algoma and Thunder Bay report no deaths. But when it is known that the reports are so defective through the neglect to register deaths, it is impossible to determine whether the absence of deaths or the smallness of the number reported is due to this neglect, or is indicative of an immunity from the influences which give rise to this disease. In 1873 this fever was prevalent in the city of Hamilton to a greater extent than usual; the statistics of the Hamilton Medical and Surgical Society show 12 fatal cases, and others occurred which were not reported to the