

Statistics, and the experience of practitioners, show that an

EPIDEMIC OF DIPHTHERIA

commenced in the city about the year 1872, steadily increased in severity until it reached its maximum in 1876, and has since that date been steadily decreasing. During the past year only eighteen cases occurred in Dispensary practice, and few cases have been observed in private practice. One feature of this epidemic is worth recording, viz., that the better classes have suffered very much more from the disease than those situated under more unfavorable circumstances. This is clearly established by comparing the number of deaths occurring among patients treated at the Dispensary with the number registered at the office of Vital Statistics:—

DEATHS FROM DIPHTHERIA.

	Dispensary.	City.
1873.....	0	12
1874.....	0	36
1875.....	0	27
1876.....	8	174
1877.....	5	No Returns.
1878.....	3	"
1879.....	0	"
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That the poorer classes were not specially liable to be attacked by this epidemic is confirmed by the fact that the disease was rarely observed among the negroes, the majority of whom are exposed to insanitary influences of the worst kind. In examining the imperfect records in our possession, one feature at once arrests attention, viz.: the large amount of

PREVENTABLE DISEASE

that is constantly prevailing in the city. At least one hundred deaths are caused every year by Diphtheria, Measles, Scarlet Fever and Whooping Cough—infectious diseases