

cine, has given one striking example illustrative of the fact that the disease may reproduce itself unmistakably. The locality which was the scene of the occurrence is called New Boston, a small settlement consisting of nine families, about eighteen miles from Buffalo. A stranger travelling from New England reached the hotel in this place sick. His illness in a few days developed into unmistakable typhoid fever, and he died. There had not previously been any case of the kind in the settlement. Other cases afterwards occurred in the landlord's family; and in each of the other houses except one, the inmates of which had not come in contact with the stranger in any way, there were unequivocal cases of typhoid fever. There was a common well for all these houses: but in consequence of a difference between the landlord and the occupant of one house, the latter was obliged to dig a well for his own use, and was excluded from all intercourse with the other families. In a month, Dr. Flint says, after the arrival of the stranger, more than one half of the population of this place, numbering 43 cases, had been affected, and 10 had died. This one family before referred to escaped without the occurrence of any cases. Dr. Flint also states that, by a careful examination of the body of one of those who died, he satisfied himself thoroughly as to the character of the disease. Now, on the supposition that the disease is due to defective sewerage *alone*, as Dr. Murchison has stated, the occurrence of this local epidemic is utterly inexplicable. On the supposition, however, that typhoid evacuations may be a cause of the reproduction of the disease, without admitting even its contagiousness, we have a most rational explanation of the cause of the outbreak.

Then, again, few of us who have observed at all closely, have failed to see numbers of cases the occurrence of which could only be explained upon the supposition that defective drainage or water contaminated by the products of animal or vegetable decomposition *can* give rise to the disease. Cases of this nature are, moreover, so numerous that the conviction is irresistible that the disease may be produced and propagated from this source.