

influence has the presence or absence of atmospheric moisture on diseases of the respiratory, circulatory or nervous systems? Is there any relation between the presence or absence of atmospheric ozone and the prevalence or absence of any disease? Does the amount of cloudiness have any influence on diseases of the nervous system? Do the barometrical fluctuations have any effect on the circulatory and nervous systems? These are some of the questions I hope to see brought before us by the combined study of our meteorological reports and the weekly reports of prevailing diseases. I am not sanguine that the results will be at first inspection apparent, or that we shall reach any results without careful and prolonged study, even if we shall ever be able to satisfy ourselves on all these questions, but I am convinced that if the relations of these climatic conditions to the public health are ever determined, it will be by the combined study of meteorological conditions and the prevailing diseases, rather than by comparison of meteorological conditions with the mortuary records. A wider scope must be given to the study of vital statistics before results of the highest value are reached."\*

It may be remarked also that a very large field of observation is afforded in the study of the effects of approaching electric atmospheric conditions, which will be of the very greatest importance, more especially to those engaged in the study of diseased mental phenomena.

The varying pressure of the atmosphere is one of the most important conditions to be taken into account, as the changes and their rapidity, or the existence for a lengthened period of a pressure much above or below the normal, will, no doubt, be found to predicate or co-exist with certain diseases. In extreme cases it is said that the change in atmospheric pressure amounts to nearly one pound on every square inch of surface. According to Dalton, assuming that there are 2000 sq. inches on the outer surface of the body and about 1,400 sq. feet of surface in the lungs, there would be a change of pressure amounting to about 100 tons upon the human system, consequently it appears that atmospheric pressure must be a very important factor in the influence of weather on health, as the amount of humidity, ozone, etc., appears to depend upon the varying conditions of temperature and pressure, and, except in a few instances, can hardly be said to have an independent effect upon health. Among other instances of the influence of the weather it is a well known fact that before yellow fever becomes epidemic the temperature must have attained or remained above a certain degree for a certain period; and in the last report of the Registrar General for Ontario it is shown that when the temperature in New York was

above the average of 80 degrees for the week the deaths from all causes increased enormously, more especially amongst children under 5 years of age.

In summing up some of the results to be derived from a discussion of health statistics, I will conclude a subject which I trust will be well considered by all present. These statistics will enable us

1st. To ascertain the influence of the weather on health.

2nd. To determine the proportion which may exist between the sickness-rate and the death-rate.

3rd. Having obtained a knowledge of the existence of an epidemic, to take precautions to prevent its spread and to mitigate its effects.

4th. To interchange this information with our neighbors to our mutual advantage; and

5th. To obtain better ideas regarding the origin and progress of disease generally.

For the data we must depend upon the medical profession, and an intelligent public must grant us its support and assistance, for, as Professor Tyndal asserts: "If anything is to be done in the way of any really great sanitary improvement, it must be from the people themselves," and it appears to be a fit subject for discussion as to whether the Government should take immediate action in this connection, or that for a time we should continue the system which has been proposed and which at present is being put in operation. A copy of the form used in reporting is appended.

Diseases in \_\_\_\_\_ during week ending Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ 18\_\_

	Number of Cases.	Severity*	Remarks†
Asthma.....			
Brain, Inflammation of.....			
Bronchitis (Acute).....			
"    (Chronic).....			
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis..			
Cholera Infantum.....			
Cholera Morbus.....			
Consumption, Pulmonary...			
Croup, Membranous.....			
Diphtheria.....			
Diarrhoea.....			
Dysentery.....			
Erysipelas.....			
Fever, Intermittent.....			
Fever, Remittent.....			
Fever, Enteric.....			
Influenza.....			
Laryngitis.....			
Measles.....			
Megrin.....			
Myalgia.....			
Neuralgia.....			
Pleurisy.....			
Pneumonia.....			
Puerperal Fever.....			
Pulmonary Hæmorrhage...			
Rheumatism.....			
Scarlatina.....			
Small-Pox.....			
Whooping-Cough.....			

\*The severity of the disease should be noted, using the signs +, +, or -, according as the disease is about the same, or more, or less than usually severe.

†In this column, any notes regarding special cases, or remarks on the sanitary conditions, might be entered. The blank space is left for the mention of diseases not named in the list.

\* State Board of Health, Mich., 1878, page 7.