

their predictions. It will come to us only when it is carried to us, and it is my belief that even then its progress may be stayed, or completely arrested, by prompt isolation of the first presenting case or cases. The converse of this was wofully demonstrated in Toronto in 1849. In that year I chanced to be chairman of the City Board of Health. During the spring, cholera was threading its way up the Mississippi. I felt assured it would in due course reach us, and I urged on my colleagues the necessity of preparing some edifice for the reception and isolation of the first cases. We were permitted to erect a wooden shed on the then totally vacant lot on which St. Andrew's market now stands. We flattered ourselves that we had done well, but a quarter of a dozen of lofty magnates residing in that region, thought otherwise, and they accordingly turned out one night and demolished our receiving-house. I appealed to my colleagues of the council, begging for the re-erection and future protection of our edifice. To my great chagrin I found that their sympathies were with the demolishers, whilst I came off with their contempt. I could see but one course open to me, and I took it. I resigned my seat as an alderman, and with that, of course, my place in the Board of Health.

The cholera reached Toronto early in June. The first reported case was in a house on Scott street, in the person of a man just arrived from Buffalo or Cincinnati. There was no place of isolation to which to remove the patient. The consequence was exactly what should have been anticipated. The disease spread, and in the course of three months it carried off more than 500 citizens, of whom several were of the respectable classes. The three demolishers however escaped, and no doubt they flattered themselves they had performed a very praiseworthy act; but many a bereaved wife and husband, and many a weeping orphan might have had just cause for ascribing their calamities to the selfish apathy of the west end demolishers. Poor things! they are all gone, but their evil deed should not be buried in their graves.

In 1851, the cholera, as appears from a report in the French language, written I presume by Dr. Tache in 1866, visited Quebec, having been brought in from the United States. It would appear to have lasted only five weeks, in September and October; but 206 deaths were ascribed to it. It did not reach Upper Canada at this time.

In November, 1852, a very formidable and fatal disease broke out in the Toronto Lunatic Asylum, which had some of the characteristics of Asiatic cholera. I understood however that Dr. Widmer regarded this disease as essentially different from Asiatic cholera, though not much less fatal. If Asiatic cholera be produced by filth, irrespective of specific infection, I might readily admit the possibility of its existence at that time in the Toronto Asylum. I had shortly afterwards the odoriferous task of cleansing the augean-stable-eclipsing mass of underlying abomination. Let any one try to imagine what must have been the hygienic condition of that edifice, nearly 600 feet in length, sitting over the accumulated dirty suds and kitchen dirtied water of four years contribution. Such was the fact, for the drains of the basement had never been connected with the main sewer running from the house to the lake. Fortunately the water-closets had independent connections of their own, else who will say how much worse the condition of the patients would have been? Will it be believed that a grand jury, presided over by a very magniloquent citizen, made a presentment within two months after the outbreak of the disease mentioned, in which they informed his lordship, the judge, and the public, that they had examined the water beneath the basement, and had found it clear and scentless. In the winter of 1853-54 I caused to be removed from this same basement some 200 cartloads of very rich manure. The directors of the asylum had, in the end of 1852, sent some samples of the air of various compartments to a distinguished chemist, who did not succeed in finding anything amiss in it. This may show how very undetectable dangerous gases may be, for during the cleansing process I had not less than 50 cases of erysipelas to fight against, and I cannot but believe the dirty state of the foundation had much to do with their causation. At all events I had no more of this trouble after the place was cleansed out, and proper attention to ventilation was given.

The cholera of 1854 was introduced into Canada by way of Quebec. It was brought by a ship from Liverpool, which reached the port on 17th of June. It appeared among emigrants at Montreal on the 22nd; at Kingston on the 25th, and on the same day, as reported, at Toronto. It continued till the middle of September. In my journal under date