

consists—it is evident that the search must be directed towards either the essential or incidental constituents of the blood. Simon gives strong reasons for concluding, that neither the blood corpuscles nor the salts can be the ingredients in question, inasmuch as their exhaustion or material alteration would of necessity prove fatal. He thinks that it will be sound, more probably, among the effete matters of the tissues, some of these existing in the system only once during life, and hence, when removed, can never be replaced. Such are the waste materials of the temporary cartilages, the thymus gland, &c., and some of these might be supposed to constitute the liability to such diseases as occur only once in life.

But it is not necessary for the explanation of these latter diseases, that their internal cause should be produced only at one particular period of life; for, as suggested by Mr. Paget in his lectures on surgical pathology, the immunity from future attacks may depend on what he calls—the assimilative power of the blood. Thus, when the structure of a part has been altered by disease or injury, as in scars, indurations, &c., the altered texture continues to be nourished, and its particular structure to be perpetuated, in the same way as normal tissue. So, also, when the constitution of the blood has been changed by any of these diseases, this assimilative power maintains it in its altered condition, as it formerly maintained it in its natural state.

But there is a constant tendency in the system, in these cases to return to the normal condition. Scars in process of time become lessened or obliterated, and indurations become softened and removed, so also the altered constitution of the blood produced by these diseases, may in process of time gradually subside, and finally altogether disappear; thus accounting for the wearing out of the protection afforded by vaccination, and the recurrence of small pox or measles, a second or even a third time.

A strong reason for supposing the susceptibility to these diseases to depend upon the effete matters of the tissues is, that the accumulation of these matters in the system is well known to create a predisposition to the attack of epidemic and contagious diseases; thus, these diseases are generally found to break out first, and to be most severe, in those localities where impure air, imperfect ventilation, &c., prevent the proper elimination of these matters from the blood. So also with great muscular exertion, from the waste which it causes in the tissue. The influence which these matters have in promoting the tendency to the accession of zymotic diseases, with the conditions which favor their accumulation in the system, are well given, in a paper by Dr. Carpenter, an