

Silenus [*that is the name of the patient, perhaps a miner in the famous mines of Thasos*] dwells on the flat beach near the property of Eualceides. From toil, drinking and unreasonable exertions he took fever. He began by feeling pain about the hips, headache, and a distention of the throat. A bilious and violent discharge took place *the first day*; dark coloured urine with a dark sediment; great thirst and a dry tongue; no rest at night. *On the second day* a sharp fever; more dejecta of a thin, frothy kind; dark coloured urine; an uneasy night; did not notice things much (i.e., there was a kind of stupor or dullness). *On the third day*: every symptom more acute; oblong distention on each side of the hypochondrium, somewhat relaxed towards the centre; discharges somewhat dark in colour; urine thick, somewhat dark; no rest at night; much babbling, laughter, singing; involuntary discharges occur. *On the fourth day*, the same symptoms. *On the fifth day*, excessive or violent discharge, bilious, smooth, shining; urine thin, little of it, transparent; takes little notice of anything (i.e., great dullness). *On the sixth day*, slight sweats about the head; the extremities cold, livid; much tossing about; nothing discharged; sharp fever. *On the seventh day*, voiceless; extremities no longer any heat; retention of urine. *On the eighth day*, cold sweats; a red eruption after the sweats, spreading itself over the body like pimples down and remaining permanent; dejecta as if undigested; pain in discharging urine; extremities warm a little; slight sleep; coma; speechless; urine light, bright. *On the ninth day* the same symptoms. *On the tenth day*, could not take drink; coma; slight sleep; urine thick with a white sediment after standing, like coarse flour; the extremities again cold. Death took place. Throughout the respiration was bad, intermittent and laboured. Quivering of the hypochondrium was constant. His age was about 20 years.

That is a clinic of Hippocrates which you can date about 2,300 years ago. What kind of a case would you judge that was? As an experiment I asked one of the medical professors after reading it over to him to say. He answered without much hesitation that it was a fairly defined case of common typhus. Yet in the medical histories I have consulted I find it is stated that there is no certain or satisfactory account of typhus fever till the year 1501, when it occurred in Italy. (See Wilson on Continued Fevers). The number of cases which Hippocrates observed during this outbreak must have been very great, as we may infer from his general remarks, although those which he actually records are only 16, or, if we take the whole series,