

Patients admitted into the respective hospitals in 1873, shows the proportion of cases of epidemic diseases :

DISEASES.	Toronto Gen'l. Hospital.	Hamilton City Hospital.
Miasmatic	136	90
Enthetic	45	15
Dietic	26	32
Diathetic	12	4
Tubercular	48	13
Nervous system	62	24
Organs of circulation	17	3
Respiratory organs	31	43
Digestive organs	15	15
Urinary system	37	5
Generative organs	19	7
Senile debility	28	4
Integuments	95	35
Diseases of nutrition	1	27
Organs of locomotion	21	4
Accidents, etc	122	62
Parturient cases	34
Totals	715	417

I am under obligation to Drs. Reeve and McCollum, of the Toronto Hospital, and to Dr. O'Reilly of the Hamilton Hospital, for statements of the diseases of patients admitted into these Institutions in 1873.

Early in June I wrote to several prominent members of the profession in different parts of the province making inquiry respecting the epidemic diseases of their localities ; the time, however, was too brief to collect information in this way, but I have been favored with communications from Drs. Covernton, Simcoe ; Hornibrook, Mitchell ; and Bray, Chatham, which I have much pleasure in transmitting to the President of the Association.

I will now direct attention to some of the epidemic diseases. The reports of the Registrar-General for 1870 and 1871 do not show the particular localities in which the different diseases prevailed ; in 1872 and 1873, the number of deaths from each disease is noted for each county. *Variola* appears to have been most prevalent in 1873, the number of deaths from it being greater than the total of deaths from the same cause for the other three years included in these reports. The largest number of deaths, 39, is noted for the county of York, many of these probably occurred in Toronto ; 33 deaths are registered in Carleton, some of which occurred in Ottawa ; 23 in the county of Essex ; 10 in the county of Bruce ; the disease appears to have visited 27 counties, in some only one death is registered, in others as many as eight, while in 13

counties no deaths are reported. That it prevailed in so many places is a melancholy commentary on the neglect of many to attend to the duty of causing their children to be vaccinated ; it appears that in the city of Berlin, after vaccination had been introduced and extensively practiced the mortality from small-pox in ten years, from 1804 to 1814, was reduced to about 500 ; in Ontario, with of a population of 1,620,851, a great part of which is in rural districts, the mortality in four years amounted to 299. Its prevalence in 1873 awakened many for the moment to the necessity of vaccination being more generally attended to ; in the city of Hamilton a spasmodic effort was made to provide for the vaccination of the poor, and the newspapers impressed the duty upon all ; the same was probably the case in other places, but as has happened before, the effort was of brief duration and inefficient, and until a similar danger is at our doors the public and our municipal councillors will sleep.

Cerebro-spinal meningitis has prevailed in many parts of Ontario, in some places with marked severity. Dr. Hornibrook, of Mitchell, county of Perth, in a memorandum regarding its prevalence, with which he has favored me, states :—" In April, 1862, I saw four cases of this disease in the township of Elma ; the county was new, clearings small. Seven cases occurred on adjoining farms in a bend of the River Maitland, where the land had been submerged to the doors of the houses, in the beginning of the month ; when the disease appeared the water had subsided, leaving the heavy clay land sodden with water and favorable to the production of malaria. No other cases were known in this locality till 1868 when three cases occurred in mid-winter, with none of the conditions which could be expected to produce malaria. In 1870 a few cases occurred, and again in the summer of 1872 the disease prevailed in the county of Huron, commencing in the western part and gradually spreading eastward, and in January 1873 reached the county of Perth ; it spread gradually eastward and ended about 36 miles from the place where the first cases were noted. The belt of country over which it spread was about 30 miles in width." Dr. Bray, of Chatham, in his memorandum states that "Eight years ago, and again in 1873 during the winter it prevailed as an epidemic. In our locality fifty or sixty deaths occurred, principally among the negroes and ill-fed poorly clad people."