

Severe headache, pains in the muscles and knees, tenderness over the stomach and liver were complained of. On the 5th, 6th, or 7th day a copious sweat broke out, and almost immediately the fever commenced to decline. "In a few hours," he writes, "the pulse would fall from 128 to 84 or 60, and the temperature from 104° or 105° Fahr., to 96°." In some cases, a cutaneous eruption was visible, but it varied in character, being sometimes sudaminous, at others rubeculous, occasionally little specks of extravasated blood were seen in the skin.

From the Report of the Sanitary Superintendent of the Metropolitan Board of Health. Dr. Harris, published in the New York *Herald* of February 9th, 1870, it seems that the first group of cases occurred in this city during the last ten days in September, in one of the most crowded and destitute parts of the city, namely, about the junction of Baxter and Worth streets, on the east-side of the town, a quarter occupied by old clothes dealers, rag-gatherers, beggars, vagrants, and others of the most indigent of our very mixed society. From the two houses it first attacked in this vicinity, it spread to Mott, Mulberry, Cherry, Water and other streets on the east-side of the city, very little of it appearing on the west. It has attacked about 500 people.

The report informs us that, "the fever has progressed slowly, and it is believed that nearly all of its nests are already known and broken up. \* \* Our chief difficulty in restraining the spread of the fever consists in restraining and watching the low lodging house class of persons. They have been chief carriers of this fever, and have become the centres that gave origin to 15 out of 19 of the group of tenement epidemics."

Those who are not acquainted with the tenement house system, as it has existed in this city since the war, will hardly realize its influence as an aid to the propagation and spread of epidemic disease, even with the assistance of a description much more minute than I have space to give. But some idea may be formed in respect to it after reading the following, which I extract from the fourth annual statement of the Metropolitan Board of Health, (see Report for 1869, p. 24, et seq).

"On the 8th of September," (this document informs us), "the Committee reported that they had made extended tours through the tenement house districts of the city, and had made personal examination as to the management and condition of the larger buildings of this class. In general, they found that the worst class of tenement houses were those where a landlord had accommodations for ten families, and these buildings *comprise more than half* of the tenement houses of the city, and accommodate more than *two-thirds* of the entire tenement house population. \* \* It is among this class of tenement houses that nearly all the evils of the tenement house system in New York are found. \* \* \* The little colony exhibits in their rooms, and in the areas around their dwellings, extreme want of care. The street in front of the place was reeking with slops and garbage; the alleys and passage ways were foul with excrements; \* \* the privies, located in a close court between the rear and front houses, were dilapidated, and gave out volumes of noisome odors, which filled the whole area, and were diffused through all the rooms opening upon it; and the halls and apartments of the wretched occupants were close, unventilated and unclean."

Among such classes of the people, the disease originated in this city, and to them it has been hitherto chiefly confined, owing, most likely, to the exertions of the Metropolitan Board of Health. How it came here is not satisfactorily ascertained, though there is no doubt of its having been imported from abroad.

#### CHARACTER OF THE DISEASE.

The features of the disease, as observed here at present, correspond exactly with the descriptions we have of it from the physicians of the old country. Its invasion is usually sudden; commencing with a chill, which is soon followed by a hot though moist skin, a quick pulse, a white moist tongue; sometimes streaked brown down the centre, prostration, distressing headache, and pains almost rheumatic in intensity in the muscles and joints, particularly in the calves of the legs and knee joints. Sometimes on the 2nd or 3rd day the epigastrium is tender, and vomiting commences, often frequent and distressing, of a greenish or yellowish fluid. On the 3rd or 4th