

pointed to investigate an outbreak, in 1887, of what is called the "sweating sickness" in Poitou. Its unusual appearance will make a word of description of interest. In its first period we have sweats, fever, general weakness and nervous depression, cough and epistaxis: second period an eruption appears on the fourth day after onset, vomiting and itching: eruption is miliary, acuminated, vesicular, with exfoliation in its evolution. The exanthem may be rubeolous, scarlatiniform or hæmorrhagic. In this stage the skin sweats less and fever falls. third period—desquamation, in points or in large scales, and even large patches. Convalescence varies in its length: frequently extended by anæmia. A disease generally mild, it may yet become extremely malignant, death occurring within forty-eight hours of the onset. Its clinical relationships, according to Brouardel, are that it appears where measles has recently prevailed, and is likely to affect the same children. In one house may be seen parents with all the pronounced symptoms of the classical disease, while the children have it in a milder form. The epidemic of 1887 began in a *commune* of Lussac, thence imported to Poitiers. It seems to have been in some degree epidemic in the district in 1878-80-85. It is very fatal to adults; 33%–50% of those attacked die, and is eminently contagious. Its inoculation may be twenty-four hours, and it is spread much as measles and scarlatina. The Sanitary Commission undertook first, to disinfect the centres of infection, and, second, to prevent its spreading; or, as Brouardel says, "Guard narrowly the periphery and stamp out the disease in the centre where it appears."

OUTBREAKS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Cholera at New York.

Cholera has claimed in all some 16 victims from amongst the passengers on the steamer *Alesia*. At last accounts most of those attacked were convalescing at the station, and the passengers were set free from quarantine. The quarantine officer's report shows that every method for disinfection has been put into effect.

Yellow Fever at Key West and Tampa, Fla.

The vague reports from these places, notably the latter, are not reassuring to the people of the Gulf ports and the Mississippi. The low mortality

in several outbreaks gives an opportunity for the denial of the existing disease being yellow fever. The President of the Louisiana State Board, who is chief quarantine officer of New Orleans, insists, however, that the only condition of safety is in calling suspicious outbreaks yellow fever until the contrary is proven. Dr. Porter, president of the Board of Health, Oct. 6th, telegraphed from Key West "The epidemic is over." From Tampa advices dated Oct. 7th, says 20 cases and 4 deaths—a panic prevails. On 25th., 27 more cases.

Diphtheria in St. Louis.

Prevalent as the disease is everywhere, entitling it to the name given by Hirsch, 'the world's pestilence,' St. Louis has for a long time been very subject to its ravages. The flat situation of the city seems to be favorable to its spread; but in all probability an outbreak due to defective drainage has become a centre of infection for a whole district since in 1886 there was no marked relationship existing between the prevalence of the disease and the older parts of the city.

OUTBREAKS IN CANADA.

Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever.

These two filth diseases are prevalent in some places; almost epidemic in many localities. Some of these have figured notably in the public press, *e. g.*, Toronto, and London West. But the fact of their condition being discussed in the daily press does not make the local prevalence in other districts any less. The mortality tables for the month of September amply indicate this.

Montreal's death rate in September reached 30 per 1,000 of population. There were 35 deaths from diphtheria and 22 from typhoid.

"Stratford Hospital," Brantford, is said to have had fifteen cases of typhoid at once there during the past month.

Diphtheria has been very prevalent on the flat lands of Moulton Township, and has broken out in Sandwich West. Saugeen, Albermarle and other places in the Bruce peninsula are similarly suffering. The endemic prevalence of this disease is indeed remarkable; but when water from barnyard wells is used, as it has been in many places during the past summer, there can be no wonder at the result.