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WHY SCARLATINA IS ENDEMIC IN MONTREAL.

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The last three months having been marked by more than the average number of cases of scarlatina, which, fortunately, this year has not been of the virulent type, to which this dread unknown disease is so liable—at least in certain sections of our city—and living in the constant fear that any one new case might run the dreadful course occasionally seen, and die while the attendant stands helpless and impotent to combat the intense intoxication of the malignant form; while watching by the bedside of a little one stricken to death, and find all trusted remedies alike fail; when waiting, as many a man before me has waited and watched, fighting the battle inch by inch through the dreary night, each moment showing more clearly that we are losing ground, and only to turn away at the ebb of the tide, at break of day, heavy at heart and weary, with a vague, ill-defined sense that, somehow, it might not have been, and a growing conviction that *would* not have been had things been arranged differently, the jotting down of more lives sacrificed to the demon of neglect, and then the blotting out of remembrance for the time being in the merciful (and merciless) vortex and whirl of everyday life—these are things which make one think, and wonder why scarlatina should be so perpetually cropping up in our midst, with a well-organized Health Department, a fairly good executive staff and a system of reports and investigations which appear on the face to be all that is needed, and yet the disease flourishes! It ought not to.