population. It might be taken, therefore, that any of these special diseases required its special germ or seed for its production, just as you required a grape seed to produce a vine. He entirely agreed with all that the lecturer had stated as to these diseases "breeding true," for they never found the virus of small-pox producing typhoid, or *vice versa*. The subject was one of the most important which could engage the attention of the scientific physician, for in the whole range of medical art and science there was not a subject of equal importance. But in applying to daily practice this question of infectious diseases the scientific physician must not stand alone, he ought to be aided by the sympathy of an enlightened public. Here, in England, we did not like to be pressed into good behaviour by external influence, and if anything was to come in the way of really great sanitary improvement, it would be from the people themselves. Hence, in a people who were jealous of Government interference, it was of primary importance that they should be properly instructed; and he did not exaggerate in the slightest degree in declaring that solemn, sound, and healthy instruction had been imparted to them in the lecture to which they had just listened.—*Medical Press and Circular.*

ABSTRACT OF A SKETCH OF THE RECENT EPIDEMIC OF TYPHOID FEVER IN PARIS.

BY DR. BOURDON, MEDECIN DE L'HOPITAL DE LA CHARITIE MEMBRE DE L'ACADEMIE DE MEDICINE.—(*Lancet*).

I desire to place before the readers of the *Lancet* a brief account of the epidemic of typhoid fever with which Paris is at the present time affected. This disease as is well known, is epidemic in our capital, and an exacerbation takes place every year during the summer and autumn. This year, however, the disease has spread considerably, and has attained the dimensions of an epidemic; for, in the second quarter of the year, the total number of typhoid patients in the hospitals of Paris amounted only to 169, with a mortality of 20 per cent., whilst in the third quarter the number of those affected rose to 714—that is to say, was more than quadrupled, and the mortality reached the enormous proportion of 39 per cent.

If we investigate the atmospheric conditions, which might be regarded as constituting the causes of this epidemic, it will be found that in the months antecedent to the outbreak the rainfall was below the average proper to this period of the year—that there had been, in fact, a great drought. The temperature rose as usual, and remained moderate for some time. On the 9th of June, however, it suddenly increased, and continued excessively high till the 17th August. On the 18th of August it fell considerably, and the rains began. In September the draught had passed away; 69 millimetres (2·76 inches) of rain fell.