

Truth's Contributors.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever—How it is Propagated—Prevention.

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It is proposed in this paper to speak more particularly on contagious diseases, taking scarlet fever as a type; as diphtheria was taken as a type of the infectious diseases due mainly to filth. A contagious disease is one capable of extension from one person to another by the transmission of a contagious element possessed of life. Scarlet fever cannot spring up on account of any insanitary state of place or person. When wheat is found growing in a field we know that wheat had been previously sown there. So when a case of scarlet fever is met with, the physician knows that the disease is derived from a pre-existing case of scarlet fever; the same may be said of small-pox, measles, &c. These diseases cannot arise spontaneously, unless we accept the theory of spontaneous generation. Speaking of scarlet fever, which, next to small-pox, is the most dangerous contagious disease, as well as the most subtle, it is not always possible to trace the course of the contagium from person to person. In not a few cases the parents of the child afflicted, are unable to tell how the disease was contracted. But, while it is often impossible to follow the track of the germs from victim to victim, it is not difficult to explain more ways than one, by which the disease may be propagated—by which the seed of the disease may be gathered and then sown in fruitful soil.

The contagion of scarlet fever floats in the air, it comes in the first place, from the diseased person in the expired air, and anyone susceptible to the disease entering the room occupied by the patient, will necessarily inhale the poison and contract the disease. But the infected air may reach a victim through an open door or window, through which it is carried. Doubtless the infection may be carried in the excretions of the patient as well. Contagion may be cast off in these ways from the patient before the characteristic rash has appeared. While the rash remains the poison continues to be exhaled, and probably for some days after. It may here be stated that although the term scarlatina is sometimes used when the attack is a mild one, scarlatina and scarlet fever are all the same. The specific germs in both forms of the disease are alike. It is true we have different types of the disease; that is to say, in one epidemic the type may be mild and in another more severe or malignant. But the contagion from a mild case may beget a more dangerous form of the disease.

The danger of catching the disease does not pass away when the breath is no longer tainted with the germs. Another mode of propagating the malady now presents itself in well marked cases. This element of propagation is of great importance; but is often overlooked, and hence so many cases of disease where it is impossible to tell how the disease was contracted. A characteristic of scarlet fever is the desquamation of the cuticle, or exfoliation of the outer portion of the skin. Sometimes these scales are very abundant. Now it is important to know that these scales are laden with the germs of the disease. They are often very fine and float like dust, in the air and may be inhaled. They will more particularly collect in the clothing of the bed, or of the person. Woollens especially may hold a large quantity. So long as exfoliation continues, so long may the patient give the disease to another. And yet during this period too often the convalescent will mingle with the family, see visitors, play with the neighbors' children, and sometimes actually go to school. Persons ignorant of the danger contained in the scales, or indifferent to the welfare of others often expose themselves to the contagion, and then go out carrying it in their clothes, or heard to breathe it it may be, upon a child playing in the street, or to leave it in the house of a friend whose child is susceptible.

Cases have been known where the baker or milkman carried the disease from house to house. Not only the meshes of any texture, as garments, bed clothes, carpets, and curtains may hold the contagion; but the surface of the walls and every object in the room will have a coating of dust charged with the poison. On these surfaces it may remain for an indefinite period of time, perhaps till the day of house-cleaning. It may be that one family has moved away and another come to the house; but, at any rate, some day the curtains are taken down, and the walls swept, and the poison laden dust floats in the air to be breathed by a child, it may be, that happens to enter the place at the time.

Bearing in mind these facts there is no reason to wonder that, in so many instances, it is impossible to trace the course of the disease from one person to another. The same may be said of small-pox, and in a minor degree of other contagious diseases.

It was stated at the beginning of this paper that scarlet fever could not arise from any insanitary condition; but, while this is true, it is also true that any insanitary conditions of place or person may, as it were, fertilize the soil, so that the attack will be more severe. The system of one affected by impurities arising from insanitary evils, will not be so able to cope with a blood poison. The illness may be expected to be more severe, more trying to the vital powers, and of longer duration. Complications are more likely to arise, recovery will be more doubtful, convalescence slower.

From what has been said it is evident that scarlet fever is largely a preventable disease. By attention to isolation of every case of the disease, by keeping the patient in his room until contagion no longer is cast off from the body; by the use of such disinfectants as will destroy the germs which come from the body; by disinfecting the person and putting on uncontaminated clothing before appearing among others, very much will be accomplished. The room selected for occupation should be in the highest part of the house occupied; apart from other bedrooms if possible. The carpet should be removed from the floor, curtains from the windows, all textures taken away, also all needless furniture. Ventilation should be free and constant. The virus passing out is dissipated in the air. The excretions of the body should be promptly and thoroughly subjected to germicides. The nurse should not mix with the family, members of the family should not visit the sick room. In a word, there should be complete isolation. This should be continued until the skin has become quite smooth and free of scales. Then the bed should be disinfected; the clothing put in a disinfecting solution, and afterward boiled for hours, and finally washed. The walls of the room should be swept; if papered it should be removed; if not the walls should be white washed. The wood-work ought to be washed with disinfecting solution. Finally the room should be fumigated by burning sulphur in it with doors and windows closed.

If these things were duly attended to contagious diseases might probably be ultimately stamped out.

Taste in Dressing.

Neatness is one of the elements of good taste. Nothing catches the eye more quickly than shabbiness, and frayed ruffles, dragged trimmings and other traces of wear and tear will direct the most elaborate toilet of all claim to admiration. French women are envied for their wonderful good taste, and nothing can exceed their neatness. Their clothes are singularly appropriate on all occasions, and, though worn freely, are so excellently cared for and put away with such nicety when not in wear, that they keep in good order for a long time. An English girl will throw her wrap upon a chair and her bonnet on the bed, if she comes into the house in a hurry; but a French woman will insist on time to fold her shawl tidily, wrap it in a napkin and lay it in a drawer and her dainty, charming bonnet she will free from any dust that the wind may have lodged upon it, bend the feathers into the proper curl, smooth the strings upon her fingers, and lay the precious fascinator tenderly away in its closely covered box. Consequently, both shawl and bonnet pay for the care bestowed upon them by keeping fresh and becoming, instead of looking defaced and dreary before their term of service is properly over.

Reminiscences of an Old Journalist.

BY COL. D. WYLIE, BROCKVILLE.

The press of the world has made great progress during the present century. Since Mr. William Bradford, of Leicester, England, established a printing office in Pennsylvania, the first on this continent, and published his sheet almanac for the year 1680-7, what strides have been made in the art of printing. Without, however, going back to the early days of the "art preservative of all other arts," sufficient for wonder and amazement will be found in this respect since the present century was entered upon.

A writer of celebrity considers it the most important in the annals of printing. During this century the battle of free writing and free printing has been fought and won. Arnot says, "The strong barriers which confined the stores of wisdom have been thrown down, and a flood overspreads the earth." Newspapers began to be in request, and several, under rather quaint names, appeared and as speedily disappeared, such as *The Wandering Spy*, *The Whipping Post*, &c. The first daily paper published in London was named *The Daily Courant*. This was in 1709. The *Female Tatler* was commenced the same year; so was the *Tatling World*.

As journeymen printers are, or should be, as much interested in the make-up of a paper, as well as in its success, permit me here to copy the advice of the widow of a London printer, written to the workmen in her employment: "You are my brothers, for my husband was a journeyman before he was a master, and therefore I wish you well. Take care that you are not guilty of any ill thing, as showing apprentices any ill example, and giving bad counsel, for if you should, you would be like Judas in betraying your master that employs you; for sober men, they scorn to be guilty of this crime; but for you of the worse sort, you are like devils, for you study how to do all manner of mischief to a good master, for you hate them because they are better than yourselves; had you better not imitate them, and pray to God to make you like them? For what benefit have you in starving your wives and children, and making yourselves sots, only fit for hell? Pray, brothers, mend your faults, and pray to God to give you repentance and to mend for the time to come, that you may be reconciled to God and man, which I heartily wish." The foregoing advice was given by Eleanor James in 1711, and I am afraid would not be out of place to some printers of the present day.

But to come down to the writer's own recollections. When he entered a printing office, in January, 1826, an indentured apprentice for seven years, my first work was, like Faust's assistant, to ink the type with cushioned "balls" as these implements were termed. Rollers were not then in universal use. If the work was not properly done, the journeyman would take the "ball" to teach the proper way of handling it, and, as it were to keep his assistant in remembrance of the directions given, would drive the ball in contact with my face, and leave a very distinct mark of recognition as "a printer's devil." As to the origin of this term, there is a legend in existence, which may be here repeated. Before printing was invented all books were in manuscript, consequently no two would be exactly alike in every particular. When Faust produced his books printed from blocks, these on examination were found exactly alike. This fact produced great wonderment, and was set down as something supernatural. One day when at work, some person caught a glimpse of Faust, with a colored man assisting him, in putting the ink upon the blocks. The colored man was at once transformed into the master of the lower regions, and ever since the youthful apprentice in a printing office has been recognized as the "printer's devil."

Within the scope of the writer's recollection many newspapers, sturdy defenders of their own secular ideas, have passed away, and many others have come into existence. A little more than a year ago, the *Greenock Advertiser*, after an existence of half a century, was wiped out of the record of news-

papers. This paper for many years was owned and edited by Mr. Menons, who was some time assisted by Mr. James Scott, at one time editor of the *Montreal Herald*. One of Mr. Alexander Rodgers' songs, "Behave Yourself Before Folk," has a direct personal bearing on Mr. Scott's courtship. One night being in company with him and his sweetheart, a remark made by the lady in his presence, "Behave yourself before folk," meaning Mr. Scott to stop teasing, was caught up by the poet and made the subject of a song, popular to this day in Scotland. In Glasgow several journals, popular in their day, have also ceased to exist. *The Chronicle*, the *Courier*, the *Citizen*, the *Reformer's Gazette*, and the *Scottish Guardian*. With regard to the *Courier*, the poet William Motherwell was at one time editor of this paper. Mr. Alexander was manager. This gentleman had a brother connected with newspaper work in London, who suffered 18 months' imprisonment for a libel on the Duke of Wellington. He was afterwards editor of the *Liverpool Mercury*, and a most zealous Tory. To show his hatred of Whiggery, when a change of ministry forced the Tory government out of power, a cry against back-stair influence was raised in consequence of several of the leading Tory ladies still being retained about the court. Mr. Alexander, to show his disgust for such a cry, published the following sentences in his paper: "What shall the high-born dames of England give place to Whig hags, whose mouths are filled with the teeth of criminals, dropped from the gibbet?" Pretty strong language. Perhaps, for the present, I have given you enough.

Ribbon Work.

The inventor of ribbon work, whom she may be, ought to have our thanks for teaching us still another way to use up scraps. Ribbon work is very pretty and not hard to do.

We will take for instance a wild rosebuds, and leaves. The design must be stamped upon felt, cloth, satin, velvet, or plush. Two shades of ribbon or satin are enough to make it look well. Also start your design on a large sheet of writing paper. This will enable you to get the shape of each petal. Cut your ribbon or satin petals by these, only much larger—double the size. Now run a thread like you would do to gather anything around the edge of each petal. Draw the thread, as it gathers turn under. Stitch the gathering a little to preserve the form, and set down on your design with blind stitches. Keep on in this manner until all your petals and tips of buds are made. When this is done work the centre of rose, as you would any other embroidered rose. I work French knots, adding the stamens. Use long yellow silk floss for this. The opening of the buds is made with ribbon in the same way, filling in around with embroidery in shades of green. On velvet, the embroidered part is beautiful, done with a needle or Arseno floss. The leaves and stems are pretty worked in Kensington stitch.

Directions for Stamping.—Lay the goods to be stamped on a smooth, even surface. Now arrange your perforated paper stamping pattern in place. On the right hand side place a weight to hold it firmly. The left pattern can be held by the hand. Now take up some powder on your distributed pad and rub evenly over every part of the pattern, taking up more powder as occasion requires. When you have gone over the part remove your pattern and proceed with the stamping. If of cloth, silk, felt, or satin, lay soft paper over the stamping and press well with a hot iron, but hold the stamping in front of the fire until it is not rub. To make the pad, sew a piece of chamois over the lid of a round wooden box or a very large spoon. This makes a splendid pad for rubbing on the powder.

Long coat basques, half way to the knees are made of broadened silk, velvet or satin and are worn over similar contrasting materials.

Round waists are very popular among young ladies for home dresses; a new sign has the back round and the front slightly pointed. Still another fashion with a young man's arm around, is very popular.