

of the pros and cons, have been finally consigned to their proper categories.

From a perusal of our exchanges, we notice that practitioners in Kentucky, Virginia, and other southern States, have been puzzled by the atypical character of the fevers which have fallen to their lot during the present winter. In a paper read recently before the Medical Society of Virginia, Dr. Dabney contends that though the most prominent symptoms were lacking, yet the disease in question was really typhoid fever, from the fact that the cases presented some of the distinctive symptoms of that disease, as hæmorrhage, intestinal lesions, as found on autopsy, and that it prevails at times as an epidemic.

Other observers have noticed little that is characteristic of typhoid fever, except the continued nature of the pyrexia. They have recorded the

absence of low muttering delirium, subsultus tendinum, intestinal hæmorrhage, or diarrhœa. They have noticed the existence of bronchitis, but in some instances have ascribed it to exposure to severe weather, previous to the development of the disease.

As during a mild autumn, like the one just passed, and a winter which has so far been "open," the fevers occurring in certain parts of this Province might be expected to be of the same type as those which prevail in the southern and southwestern States, we have thought it would be opportune to discuss the subject, and shall be pleased if some or all the queries in this article elicit from our patrons or their friends any explanation of the best methods of diagnosis and treatment in this rather anomalous disease.

## INDEX OF PROGRESS

### MEDICINE.

#### Is Inflammation of Peyer's Patches Proof Positive of Typhoid?

Dr. F. W. Chapin has reported in the *Medical Standard* a case in which scarlatina produced these changes in the Peyerian patches, and at a late session of the London Pathological Society Dr. Coleman offered a specimen of diphtheric enlargement of Peyer's patches and the solitary glands. Dr. J. Harley called attention to a similar condition in scarlatina. Dr. Wilks said similar changes had been found as a consequence of cholera, and Dr. Vandyke Carter had observed them as a consequence of malaria, and had seen ulceration follow.

#### Epidemic Diphtheria.

Dr. John Irving in *British Medical Journal* says: Nearly four years ago an epidemic of diphtheria made its appearance in a town in Cape Colony, where I was resident. Very few families escaped the disease, and those who did were, I believe, the possessors of filters, and accustomed to pay some attention to hygiene. There had been no case of diphtheria in the place for at least three years, and certainly no similar epidemic during an antecedent period of ten years. The only cause we could assign for the sudden outbreak was the pollution of

the main water stream, which flowed unprotected through the streets in an open furrow. For two or three weeks prior to the first appearance of the disease exceptionally heavy rains had fallen, washing out every exposed privy and kraal, and carrying filth accumulations (in some instances of years) straight into the stream. All the inhabitants were dependent upon this one source for their supply of water. One farmer came to town with his children, and, when about to return, he took a sufficiency of water from the contaminated stream for the homeward journey, a drive of fifteen miles. The three children drank of the water, and within ten days all of them developed diphtheria, of which one died.

Two years ago, when in practice in the Midlands, I was summoned in great haste to see a child aged two years. The patient was moribund, and presented most marked laryngeal and other diphtheritic symptoms. Death took place soon after my visit. The only other child of this family, four years of age, was "ailing," the mother said. Her tonsils presented characteristic patches and the *malaise* of diphtheria. Inquiry elicited that the stable adjoining the house had been but recently "cleaned out," at which process both these children had been present, and had been allowed to play in the stable for an hour or two afterward.