

It might reasonably be conjectured that on reaching the elevation attained by the rolling prairie at the foot of the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, (some 4,000 feet) we might with a light heart, bid our hitherto omnipresent enemy good-bye, and that still further westward, on threading their dark and deep defiles, we should once more breathe freely, under the strong conviction that here at last, we were safely beyond its influence; but it is only too true, as all past and present experience proves, that in many of the gloomy gorges and deep, humid valleys of these mountains, a severe and fatal form of malarial remittent, commonly known throughout these regions as "Mountain Fever," prevails more or less extensively in Autumn, when high ranges of temperature have long continued, resembling very closely that occurring upon the plains. This may be accounted for by the fact that very large areas on both flanks of these mountains, extending very far within them, and constituting in British America, between the 49th and 55th parallels of north latitude, four fifths of the whole mountain range are composed, almost exclusively, of carboniferous limestone and Devonian strata, embracing in their depressions considerable areas of the same tertiary and cretaceous formations, which, as already shown, constitute so wide a surface of the great plains lying to the eastward of them and which have apparently been lifted up by these mountains in their ascent, and when in addition to this it is pointed out that the bottoms of these mountain chasms are filled to a great depth with vast accumulations of decayed vegetation and calcareous debris, washed down during unnumbered centuries from the surrounding mountain sides, it will no longer seem strange to those who are capable of appreciating the significance of these facts, that under such conditions, unacclimated miners and others temporarily inhabiting these valleys during the Autumn months, when great fluctuations of temperature occur during every 24 hours, should not unfrequently suffer from Malarial Fever of a very severe and fatal character. We lost several men of the Division temporarily stationed in the Kootenay Valley, about 100 miles south of this place, (Banff,) from a fatal hemorrhagic form of this endemic fever in the Autumn of 1887, and might probably have lost our Assistant Surgeon, also but for the prompt and efficient services rendered by Dr. Powell, Superintendent of Indian Affairs in British Columbia at that critical period.

The whole subject of Malaria, and indeed the greater subject of the "germ" origin of disease, of which this is but a part; though considerable accessions to our knowledge have recently been achieved, is one which is still, to a great extent, shrouded in impenetrable mystery. Laveran, it is true, has recently confirmed, by his discovery of a specific microbe, or Amœboid parasite, in the blood of patients suffering from Malarial Fever, what to some had long been a foregone conclusion; but the primal source or "germ-mother" which gave birth to this Amœboid parasite, or to the