

twelve to twenty-four hours. A case of recovery was almost unknown. This disease was so prevalent that scarcely a herd escaped, and a farmer frequently lost from one-fourth to one-half his stock of horned cattle. Horses and sheep were not affected. In the next township to the west of us the soil was porous sand, well watered with springs and spring streams, and here, though ague was not uncommon, this disease of cattle was unknown.

Contrary to an opinion frequently advanced, the presence of malaria was not accompanied with the absence of typhoid, which, I think, was as prevalent as it is now.

When my father settled here, there was not a doctor nearer than a day's ride, and the medicine was entirely domestic. Charms and incantations were largely depended upon in cases of ague and hæmorrhage; but in cases where remedies were used they were pushed with a vigor that would take the breath of the modern patient. Whiskey was the universal remedy, and had the advantage of being indicated in all diseases, in all their stages, and in all conditions of the patient. It was a *sine qua non* in midwifery. I remember, when a boy, riding with two old settlers through the woods, and while passing a log house, many miles from the nearest neighbor, a woman rushing out and hailing one of the men with, "Have you any whiskey?" He slowly and hesitatingly acknowledged that we had a bottle, "just enough to take us through the woods." "You will have to give it to us," says the old woman. "Here's a woman sick, and no whiskey. Did you ever hear of such a thing?" My friend took a parting drink, and then, with a "longing, lingering look" at the departing spirit, handed the remainder to the midwife.

A disciple of Thompson had carried his peculiar ideas into the settlement, and the beautiful simplicity of the doctrine, "Heat is life, and cold is death," and that you had only to throw off the "cold phlegm" with lobelia, and keep up the heat with red pepper, to cure your patient, had gained many followers; and I know of at least two deaths caused by the lobelia.

Bleeding was resorted to on the slightest provocation, and there was scarcely a neighborhood that did not boast of a man who could open a vein with a dexterity that would shame the majority of the graduates of to-day; and the enormous bowls of the various infusions and decoctions that were poured down the patient would go far to convince the observer that, as in the case of New York's historian, they intended to drive out the enemy by inundating the seat of war. Some of their medicines were nauseous enough to have been derived from the pharmacopœia of the dark ages, the Chinese, or the homœopathists. An infusion of the excrement of the sheep was commonly prescribed for measles, and that of