

showed itself soon after an arrival of emigrants, and as no primary infection could be discovered, if, as was universally supposed, these people introduced it to the colony, they must have brought its germs there in their clothes and belongings, and developed it by washing their property on shore. As the insanitary conditions were then much the same as they had been since its foundation in 1799, and no diphtheria had been previously known, this new ailment was judged to be brought, as well as certain moral ones, from the mother country, the physical evil rather by the agency of washing than of drinking water (a beverage scarcely ever partaken of there without wilful adulteration.)

In December 1870, a case of primary diphtheria, of most severe type, occurred in the family of a gentleman residing in a village in East Kent. The water-supply of his house was taken from a sewage-polluted river, running through his grounds. Its sanitary arrangements were said to be perfect, an assertion to which, with my present cognisance of hygiene, I must demur.

In spite of the most complete isolation of the patient from the first, and of every successive case subsequently occurring in the dwelling, not one of the household (fourteen persons in all) was exempt from the epidemic, the latter patients being nursed by the convalescents, who thus reciprocated their friend's attentions.

Between Christmas 1870, and March 1871 forty cases came under my care in the parish, four of which, in one house, that of a carpenter, were fatal in less than a week from the appearance of the first, death being due to the gangrenous form of the malady. Fourteen others, of the croupous variety, were noticed, and the remaining eight were of the catarrhal kind.

The total mortality was one in ten attacks. The water-supply of every house, where not drawn from the river, was from shallow surface wells in superficial gravel, usually close to cesspools. We could hear of no diphtheria within a radius of seven miles, or indeed within our ken, and my predecessor informed me that there had been no instance in the country-side for quite ten years. The affected houses were variously situated, some on high land and dry soil, some near woods, some in 'bottoms,' and close to springs or damp ground, some on the river bank, some singly, some in groups, but one and all were in the immediate proximity of hop grounds. Within a week of the first seizure, I had five more distinct and separate foci; and after the strictest investigation I could not trace their origin to any direct communication with each other or with extrinsic sickness. I