

better knowledge. Perhaps, in many phases of disease, this groping is a necessity, for the assemblage of conditions and manifestations that make up any disease may in near, or in widely separated localities, differ so greatly in their underlying qualities that what may be a very successful mode of practice in one place, may be very unsuccessful in another. I am the more certain of this on account of the success and confidence with which men in every way eminent, announce their success in treating certain diseases with stimulants, when under my own eye the same diseases under a like plan have grown steadily worse, every unfavorable symptom intensified, and the patient's consciousness of distress increased, or mercifully obliterated by delirium. If such differences in results, from the same medicines for the same disease, are not imaginary—which I think they are not—not only from the above consideration, but from others not proper here to bring forward, it follows that before adopting this or that line of treatment for any given disease, we should endeavor to ascertain if the circumstances and conditions in which that disease arose, are the same, or nearly so, to those with which the reader has to do. This must have reference not only to what are known as climatic conditions, but to regimen, purity of the air, and the weak or faulty organizations derived from the parents.

The milk, both human and animal, on which babes subsist, is from pernicious surroundings and faulty habits, less pure in compact cities than in rural districts. The air in the first mentioned places is also, as a rule, very impure; and the number of procreations with constitutions weakened and vitiated by excesses, extreme artfulness in living and syphilitic disorders is far greater in the city than in the country. Hence, even in places not ten miles distant from each other, the treatment appropriate for cholera infantum may be very different, and the results, under the most skilful management, very dissimilar. In the large eastern and western cities cholera infantum is a very fatal disease, while from my experience in the second class cities of Ohio, it is one of the most manageable. In the last five years I can recall only a single fatal case under my supervision. Nor is the number of cases to be met with small: it being not uncommon to have eight or ten new cases each week. Any description of cholera infantum is to the practitioner superfluous; its symptoms are everywhere so familiar, and withal, very distinctive.

In reference to its etiology, opinions do not seem to be well settled; mine may be summed up in a few words, viz: great heat, bad air and diet. Weakly and faulty constitutions and the period of dentition undoubtedly incline to the disease, but neither are essen-