

run through every family where poverty, confinement, and dirt are the inmates, and that on the contrary, in the houses of the affluent, where cleanliness, separation and ventilation are thoroughly observed, typhus is very rarely found to spread, and if it should, it is almost invariably confined to those who have been in direct and constant attendance on them. The prevalence of Scarlet Fever has been wholly at variance with this rule. It has prevailed equally among the affluent and the poor, in the well-ventilated and well-cleansed house as in the confined, and I question whether it has not been as fatal among the former as the latter, except where proper medical means have been wanting, or improper treatment adopted at first.

In the summer of 1842, Mr. B., a young man, an inmate of my house, was attacked with this disease while on a visit to a friend a few miles out of town. He was brought home in about 24 hours, just before the eruption appeared, and had a tolerably sharp attack. Although my three eldest boys alone of all the family, had ever had *Scarlatina*, no restriction was put on the attendance of the others, and no one either of my family, or of that in which he was attacked, had any symptoms of it. Mrs. O'B. attended him assiduously by day, and I by night, and his washing was all done at home. Last spring Mr. E., another young gentleman also residing with me, was similarly attacked. As in the former case no restrictions were employed, and again no one else was attacked, although five adults, and one infant about a year and a half old, in the house, never had had this disease.

I could adduce many other instances of a similar nature, but I fear the subject must have become tedious by this time to my hearers, and shall therefore hasten to a close.

Dewees of Philadelphia, no mean authority, says, "the evidence" (of its being a contagious disease) "to say the least, is equivocal. The facts connected with" its "spreading seem to be perfectly explicable, on the ground of its being epidemic and not contagious." "I have never seen so far, any decided proof that it has communicated itself in any one instance; on the contrary, I am strongly disposed to doubt its contagious quality."—*Pract. of Med.*, page 184.

In conclusion, when a student and for some years afterwards, I was strongly impressed with the contagious nature of *Scarlatina*. I had been so taught, and in spite of the evidence to the contrary, I so believed. More experience has gradually changed that belief, and notwithstanding the difficulty of the subject, and the weight of authority against me, I now unhesitatingly declare that I believe SCARLATINA IS NOT A CONTAGIOUS DISEASE.

Toronto, October 1st, 1844.