

instance, lactic acid was and is rightly presumed to be the cause of rheumatism, because its toxological effect on the living animal produces one of the most striking complications of rheumatism—endocarditis; but it is equally allowed that climate and surroundings generate the same poison. Again, with endemic cretinism, the more generally stated cause is endemic brochocele and consanguineous marriages, though miasmatic poisoning is equally allowed. Instances could be greatly multiplied, but hardly so within the scope of unpretending notes. Therefore, taking into consideration that some swamps, marshes and jungles produce cholera, some yellow fever, some ague, in malarious districts, the question seems to me to devolve itself into one only of suitable conditions of moisture and temperature. It is, I think, feasible to admit that epilepsy, allowed as it is to result from the poison of rheumatism, scarlet fever, diphtheria, &c., may result from a poisonous principle that produces these diseases. Then may not the brain equally, directly or indirectly, be influenced by a like poison of a miasmatic nature. In short, if so many diseases can be traced to miasmatic influence, as a direct exciting cause, may it not be recognized as an exciting or exaggerating influence in epilepsy, since epilepsy is itself attributed to such varied causes, themselves induced by malarious poisons.

*Fevers.*—It may seem somewhat strange, yet it is most fortunate, that of late years, beyond symptomatic fevers, this class of disease is almost unknown at York; one death only from measles being recorded. Many years ago typhus fever “was landed” by a ship and carried off many of the natives; and again, 1862-3, thirty-five deaths took place from scarlet fever, introduced originally from Manitoba.

*Skin Diseases.*—It may be noted of diseases of the skin, that they have, without exception, a scrofulous diathesis. Enveloped as the Indians are with the dirt of ages, skin diseases seem hardly to have a fair chance of satisfactorily developing; or such immunity may possibly be attributable to the antiseptic qualities of mother-earth. Were an isolated portion of cuticle to be examined at any time, the enterprising histologist must needs relegate its owner to the order of the pachyderms, and