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## MALARIA.

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As malarial fever prevails over a large portion of the habitable globe, it necessarily follows that the subject of this article deeply concerns millions of the human family. Unfortunately as yet the subject is but imperfectly understood, and the probability is that it will always remain so. A good deal however has come to the surface, with which the general practitioner should make himself acquainted. That simple case of *ague*, which the medical man may see in many localities throughout Ontario, is capable, under favorable circumstances, of undergoing important changes, until at last it presents itself as a fatal scourge. Aggravated *ague* is the scourge of India, where it destroys its countless thousands, and where it has slain hundreds of our own brave and adventurous countrymen. Malignant *ague*, or what is the same thing, malarial fever, is the terrible messenger of death of which we hear so much from African travellers. It is the malignant fever of the Mediterranean coast, and of Central and South America. Malarial fever is known by different names, according to the type it assumes. The simple form being vulgarly called *ague*, chill fever, or "the shakes;" but more properly intermittent fever. A more aggravated type is called remittent fever, or bilious remittent fever. Then we have the type called by Flint typho-malarial. Malarial fever, too, is sometimes designated by localities, as "Panama fever," "Louisiana fever," "swamp fever," etc. It is met with in many of the richest and fairest portions of the earth. It even seeks by preference the fertile river valley, with its redundant foliage and productive

fields; it follows man to the hill-sides, and finds him out on the mountain tops and slays him there. It respects neither age, rank nor sex.

It is a matter for thankfulness, that while so many parts of our earth are thus scourged, there are other and larger portions free from the more manifest destruction of this fell destroyer, and that we have it in our power to shun his fatal breath.

The area within which malarial poison works its evil consequences, may be defined with more or less accuracy. The topography of our country as relating to malaria, I do not find anywhere described. While practising my profession for several years in the town of Sarina, my attention was forcibly drawn to the subject of malaria, from its prevalence there, and in the surrounding country; but possibly still more forcibly, from personal and family experiences, illustrative of the evil effects of malaria on the constitution. The great malarial district of Western Ontario is but a fraction of a larger malarial district, extending beyond the waters separating Ontario from the State of Michigan. The northern boundary of the Canadian section of this district may be located a short distance south of Bayfield, on the coast of Lake Huron. From that point, it includes a breadth of a few miles from the water, running south to Parkhill, which village lies not far from the south-eastern corner of the lake. From this point it assumes a greater depth, and embraces the country lying to the west and south, namely, the whole of the counties of Lambton, Kent and Essex, with a part of Middlesex, and perhaps a small portion of Elgin. The more intensely malarial part of this section is that which lies along the St. Clair river, Lake St. Clair and river Detroit, especially that bounding on Lake St. Clair. Within the area thus described, malarial fever may be seen and studied in all its forms, except the most malignant, which is rarely met with on the Canadian side. The American portion of this district is very extensive, and embraces nearly the whole of Michigan, a part of Ohio, north-eastern and north-western Indiana and north-eastern Illinois. The intensity of the poison varies greatly with the locality, being more malignant where the factors of its production are most abundant, as in the vicinity of low and marshy coasts, along the courses of the rivers, or in the neighborhood of swamps, being almost absent on some of the highlands. In the early settlement of Michi