

situated in the Cockermouth Union. In some I have been able to trace the origin to the discharges of persons previously affected. But in several, though I have made a special effort to do so, I have failed to discover any history of contagion or importation, or any direct typhoid impregnation. In every case there has been fecal pollution of air or water, but in many, fecal pollution of no assured specific character. It is unnecessary to make extracts from my journal, as such cases are familiar, and many are adduced in every work on the subject.

I do, however, propose to furnish brief notes of two or three selected cases, as suggesting the idea that neglected and festering farm-sewage, in close proximity to a dwelling, may be an efficient cause of typhoid fever. As this possible source of danger has not been generally noticed, and is not mentioned by Dr. Parkes in the recent edition of his exhaustive work on Hygiene, I therefore refer to it with diffidence. If it be shown to be untrue, the negative statement will be of some value in clearing the ground in future investigations. But if the observations of others are found to be in harmony with my own, it will be in the interest of a large class of population, in the rural districts, that the cause I have indicated should receive public attention.

June 16, Dovenby.—Four cases of typhoid fever in one farm-house; one fatal. No history of importation or infection. Privy far away from pump; but liquid manure from farm running down a badly paved yard, and left standing about all round the pump, which supplies drinking water. Directed other water to be used, and well opened. June 26.—The inspector reports:—Well opened, and a pipe for overflow so broken as to have been conveying liquid sewage into the well. Not another case in the village before or since.

Nov. 5.—Six cases of typhoid fever at Little Clifton; confined to one farm-house, and adjoining cottage. No other case in the village. No history of importation or infection. Water not polluted. Privy thirty yards from house, and separated by a garden. Cause, supposed to be a large collection of liquid manure and washings of cattle excrement in farm-yard, close to the house. I subjoin one paragraph from my report to the Rural Sanitary Authority upon this outbreak:—"I have only three observations to make on this part of the subject: one is, that typhoid fever is always associated with absorption into the system of pollution either in air or water as its originating cause; second, that this large, open, animal cesspool, which I have just described, has been shown to be the only source of such pollution applicable