

as often as it has made its appearance in Europe has been imported. A study of this history teaches us that it was repeatedly a single plague-stricken person who infected a country previously spared, and that without exception every plague epidemic, even when the manner of its importation was unknown, rose slowly and gradually from single isolated cases of illness. The recognition of first cases is, therefore, of incalculable importance, and can even be the preliminary condition of an early and effectual prevention of further spread of the pestilence. Plague occurs in most cases suddenly, and takes its course, as a rule, in from three to five days, in the form of a general indisposition. There are either inflamed swellings of the outer lymphatic glands or the formation of a pustule, or a carbuncle on the skin, or inflammation of the lungs, that is, at the commencement of the illness, during the course of the same, or these are only observed on the corpse. The above is a general description in the roughest outline. The sickness attacks persons of both sexes, of every age and all classes. It generally first appears in the houses of the poor and indigent, and develops itself worse there. The pronounced illness is often preceded for hours or days by preliminary symptoms, such as fainting, depression, increase of thirst, headache, backache, and loss of appetite (ordinary symptoms of fever). The commencement is frequently quite sudden. There is stinging, burning or dull pains at the spots where carbuncles or gland inflammation will shortly develop, or tightness and pain in the chest, and later there are symptoms of shivering, chills, and fever. The commencement of the illness is almost invariably accompanied by a giddy feeling in the head, which develops into a severe state of helplessness. This feeling then creeps over the whole body and shows itself in a numbness of the limbs, which are little under control; nausea or vomiting often accompanied by giddiness and weakness of the heart with collapse is very common. When the patient comes under the treatment of the physician a serious case of illness has, as a rule, developed, and the patient is found staring into vacancy with a swollen, flabby and expressionless face, the conjunctivae being quite red, the speech slow and hesitating, the gait unsteady and swaying, and the sick person gives a general impression of being intoxicated. This impression is heightened sometimes by scratches and bruises covered with blood found on the skin of the patient's face and limbs. These are caused by the sick person tumbling about. The tongue is white and dry, as if coated with chalk, though sometimes raspberry red, with enlarged papillae, the skin is dry over the whole body, and very hot, with the exception that the limbs are usually cold and covered with clammy sweat. Respiration varies, often it is not very rapid, pulse as a rule is rapid, the radial pulse often dicrotic and thready. The patient when put to bed soon