

the first volume of Dr. La Roche's work, occupies forty-six pages ; thus showing the vast amount of labor and investigation which it has received, when the titles of the works and the names of those who have written them occupy so much space. Like the history of other epidemics, which from time to time scourge the nations, that of yellow fever exhibits much circumstantiality and minuteness of detail regarding its rise and progress, its distinguishing symptoms, and the phenomena by which it is accompanied ; but its pathology has evaded the keenest searchers, and remained hidden to the most profound and persevering investigators ; whilst, the diversity of treatment adopted and recommended by authorities, is very good evidence of the uncertainty which exists as to its true nature.

Dr. La Roche's beautifully written volumes contain a historical summary of all the epidemics of yellow fever that have occurred in Philadelphia from 1699 to the present time, and embodies, at the same time, all the main facts relating to the disease, that have been placed on record. "A work of this particular kind has not yet been undertaken—so far, at least, as the author has been able to learn ; but it cannot fail to prove useful ; for the professional reader who limits his researches, as is but too often done, to the descriptions of the more recent epidemics, or to a few monographs on the disease generally, loses the recollection, or fails to become acquainted with the events of former days, and thereby misses the opportunity of comparing together the circumstances under which the several visitations have occurred, as well as the character the disease presented, and the treatment it required, and of reaping all the advantages naturally accruing from examinations of the sort."

Yellow fever, *fièvre jaune* of French writers, *typhus icteroides* of Sauvages and Cullen, *hæmagastric pestilence* of Copland, usually prevails in tropical climates. It has made its appearance, however, in latitudes as high as that of Philadelphia and Boston, and manifested a virulency not one whit less than it exhibits in hot latitudes. Its legitimate extension is between the 22nd and 23rd degrees south of the equator, to the 42nd degree north on the Atlantic coast ; to the 35th degree on the western waters of America, and to the 8.56° degree on the Pacific. Taking into consideration those points in Europe where it has at some time prevailed epidemically, its extremest eastern longitudinal boundary will be the 2nd degree east of Greenwich. On the American continent it stretches longitudinally from the 60th to the 97th degree of west longitude. "Its true area includes the Caribbean and other islands called the West Indies and Bahamas ; the contiguous coast of Columbia and Guatemala and the extensive shores of the Mexican Gulf, sweeping from Cape Ca-