

this crew was afflicted by a malady that was unsuspected by any one. The colonists were kind to the sailors ; the women washed their clothes, and in this way contracted the disease which was transmitted from one to another and from father to son, and in time acquired its peculiar features. These traditions are, in the main, probably correct as to the origin of the scourge in this Canadian village. The inhabitants of other villages than Tracadie subsist almost entirely on fish, are equally poor, equally ill-fed and insufficiently clothed, living in the same damp and foggy atmosphere ; but it is only in Tracadie or its vicinity that a leper is to be seen. The inhabitants of Labrador and Newfoundland eat fish almost exclusively, and live amid similar climatic conditions, paying no more enlightened attention to hygienic laws, and yet the "maladie de Tracadie" does not attack or decimate them.

From the date of the introduction of this disease into the village it increased slowly but steadily until 1817, when certain precautions began to be taken ; but not until 1844 did the authorities try any active precautions. In that year a medical board was organized, who made a report of their investigations to the government, and later in the same year an act of the Provincial Legislature was passed, renewed and amended in 1850. It authorized the lieutenant governor to establish a health committee. This committee recommended the erection of a lazaretto on l'Ile de Sheldrake, an isolated spot in the middle of the Miramichi River, eighteen miles above Chatham. "Whoever was found to be unquestionably tainted by the disease," says the article, must be torn from his family, using force if needfull. The husband must be taken from his wife, the mother from her children, the child from its parents, whenever