

of emigration, and I am of opinion, that the fact of emigrants having been the first in whom the disease appeared, arose from the peculiar circumstance in which they were placed. The first case that occurred in Montreal was that of an Irish emigrant from Cork, whose brother informed me, while visiting the sick man, that only two had been sick on board during the voyage, both of whom had landed in health. The ship *Carricks*, which by some is thought to have brought the disease, was from Dublin; and at the time the cholera commenced, the passengers by that vessel were in a state of quarantine at Grosse Isle, 39 miles below Quebec. The rapidity of its spreading over the whole city, its simultaneous appearance in different parts of it, its attacking those who could have had no communication with the port, and the class first more particularly attacked, viz., the French Canadians, form in my estimation sufficient ground to repudiate the idea of its having spread from one point, or its having been introduced by emigrants from Quebec.

With regard to the second clause, I must say there is something not explicable in the mode of its extension along the great commercial thoroughfares, unless we adopt the idea of infection; but notwithstanding this difficulty, there are facts of a different description, sufficient in my mind to warrant the opinion of its propagation having been in some other mode than by infection. It may be said the peculiar circumstances of the emigrants can account for this—their sufferings during the voyage, fatigue, want of cleanliness, deficient nourishment, &c.; yet, notwithstanding there is no sufficient explanation why the disease in Canada, at least, (along the routes,) only made its appearance after the arrival of emigrants from infected places, unless we adopt the opinion of its being communicable by infection. Thinking the facts on the other side far more conclusive, I leave the subject without attempting to solve the problem. There is however, another mode in which to view the subject, and which your query bears upon. Is cholera ever communicable from one individual to another in the manner of typhus? Here, I must confess, I have seen reason to alter the opinion which I originally held, and which was founded on the writings of European authors. I was at first firmly persuaded that in no case could the occurrence of cholera in one individual, residing in a certain locality, prove a cause of its accession in another; and that if that second individual should be attacked, the cause would require to be looked for in the circumstances of his locality, independent of the occurrence of the previous case, except so far as moral causes might prove operative. Having had occasion to see frequent instances of two, three, or frequently several individuals being attacked in the same house, and not simultaneously, but successively, as they became exposed to the apparent action of morbid matter, about the sick, I have felt myself obliged to give up my former opinion; and I now believe that under the circumstances in which typhus and other infectious disorders become virulent, cholera will assume an infectious character; and the arguments that would tend to oppose the doctrine, would go, I conceive, an equal length in opposition to that of the infectious nature of typhus. The opinion which I have hazarded above, I know, is not new. I have, however, adopted it from personal observation, and I have found several of my professional friends brought to similar conclusions.

The last clause of this query refers to the common sentiment of physicians on the subject of its contagiousness. Here there is the same diversity of opinion as in other places: some physicians altogether deny its contagion; others regard it as eminently contagious; and a third set, among whom I must rank myself, consider it as generally devoid of infectious power, but subject, under circumstances favourable to it, to acquire that power.

Soon after writing the preceding remarks, Dr. Holmes received from C. S. Forbes, Esq., Assistant Deputy Commissary General, and President of the Montreal Citizen's Sanitary Committee, a statement that cholera appeared at Grenville, on the Ottawa, before the arrival of any emigrants. He says, 'its first appearance at Grenville was amongst raftsmen, coming down the Ottawa from above Bytown, and out of the small