

"other diseases which were formerly considered contagious, Lepra Græcorum and Lepra Arabum (Elephantiasis.) The former is unquestionably not contagious; and from the observations made by the late Dr. Adams in the Lazar-house at Funchal, there is every reason to think the latter equally devoid of that quality."

\*Numerous authorities might be quoted to the same purpose, but the above are conclusive; and the proofs of *hereditary* transmission are not less clear and cogent.

Various external causes have been mentioned as producing this disease; and there is a general assent as to the agency of bad food, especially putrid fish and vicinity to the sea shore. There is, however, in many instances, the greatest difficulty and uncertainty in accounting for its appearance; and the above, like those of a moral nature, of which a remarkable instance is recorded by the celebrated Alibert as coming under his own immediate care, (*Precis, &c.* vol. 2, p. 84) it is presumed, act chiefly by awakening a latent hereditary predisposition; and it must be confessed, some cases baffle all conjecture. The testimony of Sonini and Pallas is referred to by the same author, as opposed to the doctrine of *contagion*.

Having myself seen, some years ago, a well-marked case of this disease which leads to conclusions in perfect accordance with the opinions of those eminent men, I may be permitted, in this place, to bring it under notice. It occurred in a person about thirty years of age, a native of Antigua. He had laboured under it for a considerable length of time, and came to Nova-Scotia for the benefit of his health, where he married an interesting young lady about two years before I saw him. After this, he came to Saint John, and was under the care of Dr. Boyd and myself for about two months. His breath was extremely offensive, and his hands, face and legs were covered with blotches and tubercles of a livid, brownish colour; and some of them were in a state of ulceration. He afterwards went to New-Orleans, in a worse state than when he first left the West Indies; and died of this disease not long after his arrival. During the whole period of his illness, from the time of his marriage, his wife was most assiduous in her attentions to him, and occupied the same bed; but neither she nor any of the inmates of the boarding-house where they lodged for nearly twelve months, and with whom they had daily intercourse, ever shewed the least mark of the disease. He had no children; and after his death, his wife returned to Nova-Scotia, where she has continued to enjoy perfect health.

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\* Rayer, Bateman, Alibert, Robinson, T. Heberden, Ainsley.