

**Observations on the epidemic of 1819 : as it prevailed in a part of the city of Baltimore. Comprising an accurate history of its origin, progress and effects, as far as they can be ascertained; to which are affixed, by way of appendix, some remarks on the medical treatment of the disease, as found successful in the hands of the most distinguished members of the profession.**

### **Contributors**

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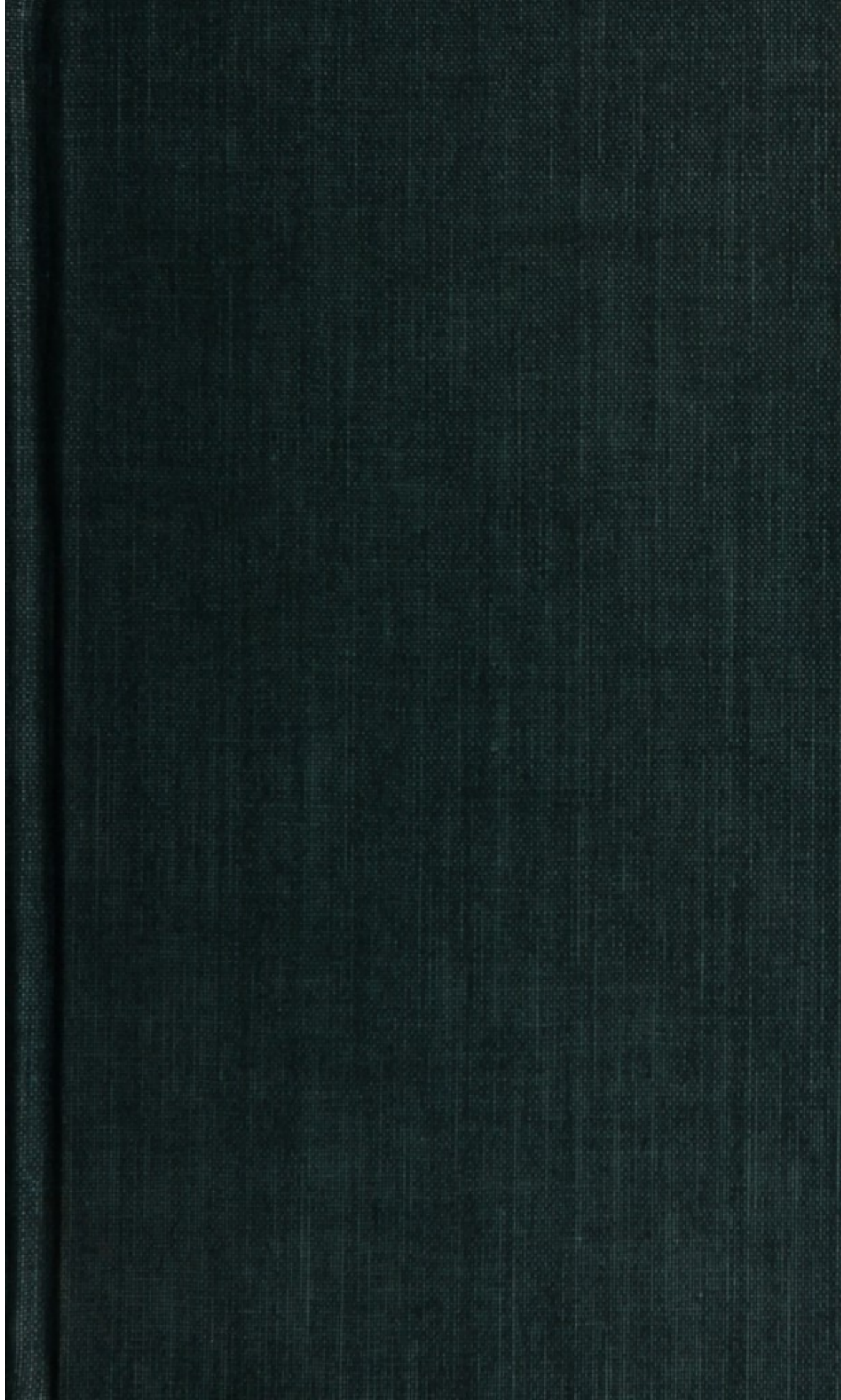
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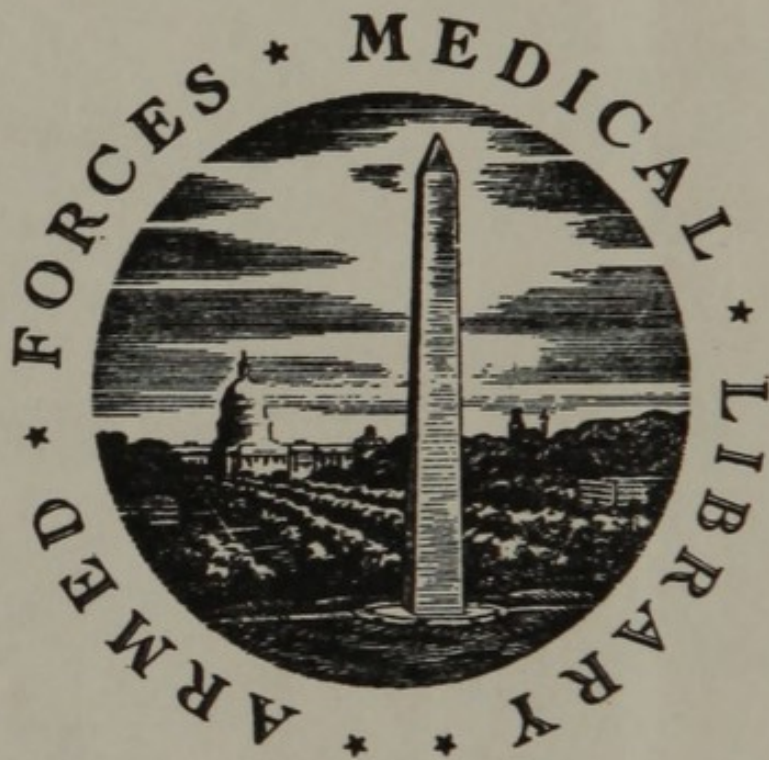
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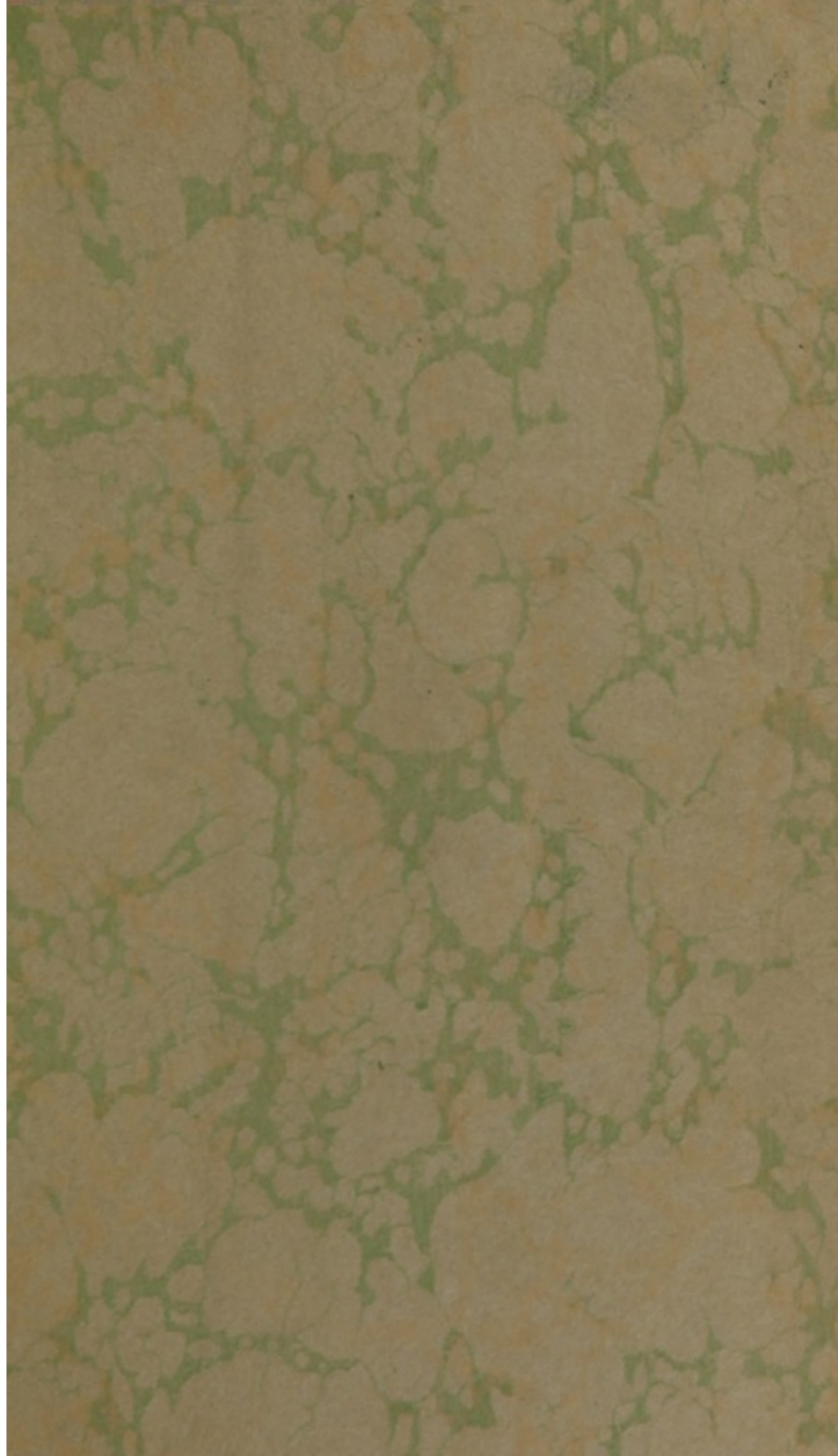


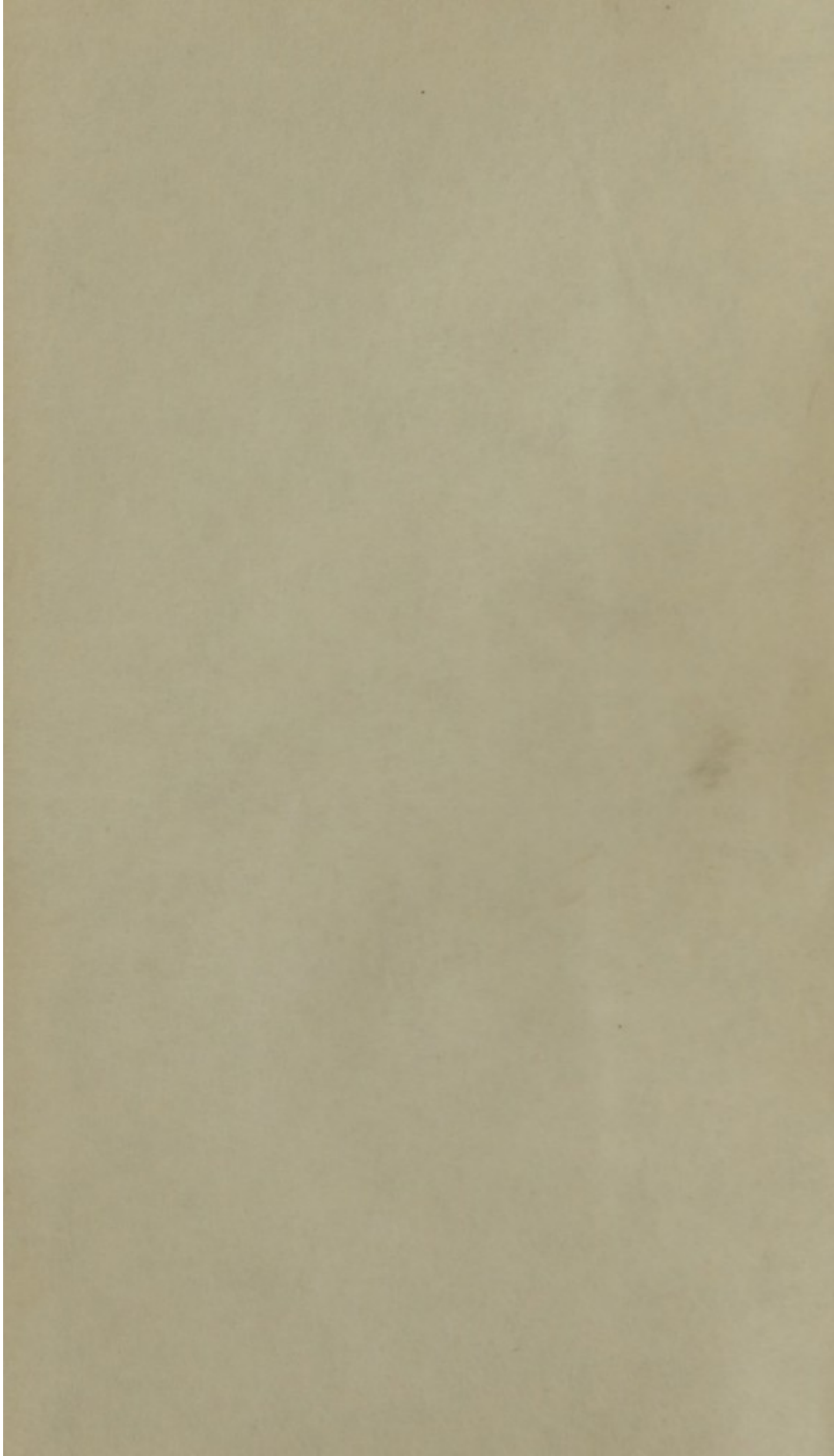
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**OBSERVATIONS**  
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ON THE

**STATISTICAL SECTION**  
**EPIDEMIC OF 1819,**

AS IT PREVAILED

IN A PART OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.

Comprising an accurate history of its origin, progress and effects,  
as far as they can be ascertained; to which are  
affixed, by way of

**APPENDIX,**

Some remarks on the medical treatment of the disease, as found  
successful in the hands of the most distinguished  
members of the profession.

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BY DAVID M. REESE, M. D.  
OF BALTIMORE.

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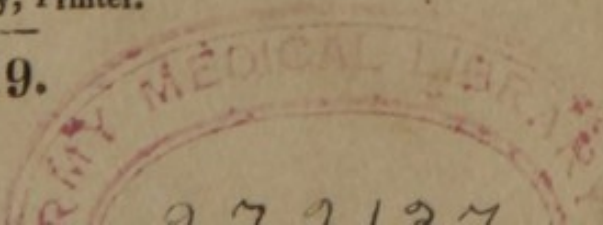
"Life is only to be valued, as it is usefully employed."

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BALTIMORE:  
PUBLISHED BY THE AUTHOR.

John D. Toy, Printer.

1819.



Yellow fever

DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, ss.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That on this twenty-fourth day of December, in the forty-third year of the Independence of the United States of America, David M. Reese, M. D. of the said District, hath deposited in this office the Title of a Book, the right whereof he claims as Author, in the words and figures following, to wit:

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* SEAL. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

“Observations on the Epidemic of 1819, as it prevailed in a part of the city of Baltimore—comprising an accurate history of its origin, progress and effects, as far as they can be ascertained, to which are affixed by way of Appendix, some remarks on the medical treatment of the disease, as found successful in the hands of the most distinguished members of the profession. By David M. Reese, M. D. of Baltimore.”

In conformity to an act of the Congress of the United States, entitled, “An act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies, during the times therein mentioned,” and also the act entitled, “An act supplementary to the act entitled, ‘An act for the encouragement of Learning, by securing the copies of Maps, Charts and Books, to the authors and proprietors of such copies during the times therein mentioned,’ and extending the benefits thereof to the arts of Designing, Engraving and Etching, historical and other prints.”

PHILIP MOORE,  
Clerk of the District of Maryland.

CH 20N 44 MMT

TO

EDWARD JOHNSON, Esq.

MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.

SIR:

I prefix your name to this production, not in accordance with the ordeal of custom, nor with the desire of courting favor by servile adulation, but thus publicly to testify my esteem and regard for your private and public character. Your exertions in the cause of suffering humanity, during the recent visitation of our city by an afflictive calamity, have insured to you the respect of all good and virtuous men, the testimony of an approving conscience, and the approbation of Almighty God.

Receive then, this imperfect testimonial of the respect and esteem of

THE AUTHOR.



JOHN HENRY  
BYRD SCHUBERT  
JOHN LEM  
LAMBERT THOMAS  
BY THE BRESTON  
JOSEPH THOMAS  
K. R. HATTI  
GEORGE BECKER

Exhibition

Commissary of the Poor

It is the duty of the Commissioners of the Poor to provide for the relief of the poor and to see that the laws relating to the poor are properly administered. It is also their duty to see that the poor are properly educated and that they are enabled to support themselves by their own industry and labor. It is also their duty to see that the poor are properly clothed and that they are enabled to support themselves by their own industry and labor.

DAVID M. HARRIS

TO

JOHN HILLEN,  
FRED. SCHÆFFER,  
JOHN LEE,  
LAMBERT THOMAS,  
ELY BALDERSTON,  
JOSEPH TOWNSEND,  
R. K. HEATH,  
GEORGE DECKER, } Esquires,

*Commissioners of the Poor,*

Acting during the prevalence of the Epidemic in the City of Baltimore, this effort is also inscribed as a monument to commemorate their industry and fidelity, and as an expression of the favorable sentiment I entertain of their individual worth.

DAVID M. REESE.

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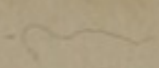
TO

NATH. HYNSON,  
JOSEPH OWENS,  
JOHN W. BERRY, and  
GEORGE MILLIMAN, } Esquires,

*Members of the Board of Health of the  
City of Baltimore,*

To whose energy and zeal our city owe so extensive a debt of gratitude, and whose activity and exertions contributed greatly to meliorate the distresses consequent upon our recent calamity, this book is inscribed as an evidence of the veneration I entertain for their private virtues and public zeal.

DAVID M. REESE.



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OF THE  
ARMY

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1880

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## PREFACE.

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THE art of elocution being foreign from the profession to which I am devoted, I at once disclaim all pretensions to the ornaments of rhetoric. It would illy comport with my qualifications, and be equally irrelevant to my purpose, to attempt a display of fanciful imagery or flowery declamation. Mine is the task to acquaint the mind with truth without ornament: simplicity of fact, without artificial embellishment. My design being merely to relate historical facts, some degree of perspicuity, and correct ratiocination are the only constituents of elocution to which I shall aspire.

In preparing this publication I have been actuated by an endless variety of considera-

tions, the enumeration of which would be but an uninteresting detail, and fatigue the reader, without a beneficial result. I shall however point out a few, which I deem the most important. First, I consider the present, one of the most favorable opportunities for establishing the non-contagious nature of the disease. Secondly, I am desirous of defending the Civil Authorities from any imputations of negligence, or want of energy in the performance of their respective duties. Thirdly, I conceive that an accurate history of the manner in which the fever originated and progressed; of the circumstances which increased or diminished its violence, a correct table of the proportionate number of Deaths to the number of diseased; and an account of the means found necessary to relieve the poor, who inhabited the infected District, will each furnish a theme worthy of the contemplation of the citizen, the philosopher, and the philanthropist.

As I wish the publication to stand the test of public scrutiny, and by its own merits to stand or fall, I send it into the world without recommendations of any kind, although these have been kindly proffered by men of dignified merits and exalted worth. Conscious that the history is given by a careful reference to facts, and that however imperfectly the materials are put together, that it is nevertheless founded on the immutable basis of truth, the author relies upon the candor of the ingenuous reader for palliation of his defects. But although he

solicits correction of his errors, yet he is perfectly regardless of the censure of those men who reject a book as useless, without giving themselves the trouble to examine it, or to search into the motives of the heart which dictated it. To such he would apply the familiar injunction of the celebrated Bacon; "Read not to contradict and confute, nor to believe and take for granted, nor to find talk and discourse; but to weigh and consider." To be favored with such readers, is the greatest blessing an author can enjoy. But this book may possibly fall into other and less ingenuous hands. It will be perused by the eye of jealousy; to discover its defects. The teeth of malice will grind each page, and mark its gritty constituents. The hand of contemptuous envy will hold the ploughshare of criticism, while it is driven with violence over its surface, turning up in its passage the numerous irregularities which deface its appearance. But in this the author will not be disappointed; such treatment he anticipated, and such enemies he defies; they are lost in their own insignificance, they need nought to promote their inevitable downfall. Just and rational criticism, founded upon careful scrutiny, will be gratefully accepted, and such criticism is solicited. Unaccustomed to wield the pen, except on ordinary affairs, the author feels that at his first entrance upon the public stage, he is obnoxious to egregious errors, and conspicuous defects. But relying upon that candor,



unknown to little minds, but which is the characteristic of the wise and the learned, he offers his book to the world, and trusts that the consideration that it is his first public essay, will restrain "the rude hands that are ever ready to pluck up the tender plants of Science, because they do not bear fruit at a season when they can only be putting forth blossoms."

OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE  
EPIDEMIC OF 1819.

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*General Remarks.*

SCARCELY had this vast orb been called into existence, by the Eternal Fiat, before the same power pronounced death to be the consequence of sin. And in every stage of human life, the avenues of death open on either hand, and present to man the earnest of that portion, bequeathed to the posterity of Adam, by that fatal act of transgression, which

“Bro’t death into the world with all our woes.”

Various are the means, which in the present organization of man, are contributory to the production of this effect. Ten thousand casualties open the grave and hurry millions to its dark abode. Disease in all its variegated forms, seeks to sacrifice its predestined victim. Hydra-like it possesses many heads,

and varies its aspect like the cameleon. No sooner does man escape from one of its attacks, than he is obnoxious to another of still greater violence. If this also fail to be efficient, steady to its purpose, it seizes again and again, until worn down by frequent grasps, man sinks a ready prey. But if from strength of constitution, or other causes, he should withstand all these invaders, the stern relentless hand of time will precipitate him into the jaws of death. Such is man in his present conformation, and such he will continue to be, until "this mortal shall put on immortality."

But of all the outlets of human life, none is more terrific in its appearance, or more direful in its effects, than the malady of which I am about to treat. In every climate, there are diseases, which may be considered indigenous. Each of the several quarters of the globe, presents us with diseases peculiar to itself, although these are susceptible of modification almost in every zone. The yellow fever appears to be the disease of our country, although not peculiar to it; for it may originate in other parts of the temperate and in the torrid zone, wherever vegetable matter accumulates, and is acted on by heat and moisture, sufficiently to excite putrefaction, and consequent evolution of *marsh effluvia*.\*

\* Marsh effluvia is the name appropriated to the cause of intermitting and remitting fevers, in whatever

It is the scourge of America, the bane of our commercial intercourse. It sweeps, as with the besom of destruction, the inhabitants of our large cities, wherever it is suffered to exist, and totally exterminates social enjoyment, wherever its footsteps are traced.

It has, however, not prevailed in Baltimore extensively, since the year 1800, at which time it raged with much violence. Its long absence is probably owing to the circumstance of the summers having been either moderately warm, or very warm and dry, until the present season, during which we have had perpetual alternations of heat and rain, together with other causes hereafter to be enumerated.

Let it not be supposed, however, that our city has been altogether exempt from the yellow fever during that period, since every year has afforded sporadic cases. Nor let it be imagined, that our quarantine regulations have at all contributed to the prevention of the disease; for never have these regulations been more rigorously enforced, than during the present season. But more of this will be said under the proper head.

It is well known, that during the present year, 1819, the disease has prevailed through-

it consists. It is composed most probably of the gases evolved during the putrefaction of vegetable matter. Its nature, however, has not yet been the subject of chemical analysis. It is sometimes called *marsh miasma*, &c.

out the middle and southern states, to the destruction of commercial intercourse to an almost infinite extent, to the great annoyance of the peace and tranquillity of the infected districts, and to the sacrifice of many valuable lives. Although Baltimore has been largely interested in this general visitation; yet some of the southern cities have been still more seriously affected. It becomes then a desideratum to ascertain the causes of so distressing an event. I shall confine my observations to the origin of our own epidemic, and leave it to others to decide upon the causes of the malady in other cities of the Union, although they are no doubt similar to our own. And to be the more systematic, I shall appropriate a section to each subject, connected with the Epidemic, which I deem worthy of attention.

## SECTION I.

### *On the Causes of the Epidemic.*

IN entering upon a field so vast in extent, so unlimited in the considerations which it embraces, and so important to the interests of our city, I am not a little disconcerted at the undertaking. Unaccustomed to the cultivation of hypothetical speculation, I feel as though entering upon strange ground. Opposed to that blind pursuit of *theory*, which some profess to observe, I have always avoided laboured hypotheses as dangerous in medicine. If, however, the sentiments of a celebrated writer be correct, that "to think is to theorize," then am I a theorist.

But not yet having strayed from the secure walks of private life; being without the commendation of great names, or the patronage of the learned; unknown, except in a very limited circle; and but entering on the threshold of science; it is a task of no small magnitude, for me to attempt to account for the causes of a disease, about which the "*literati*" have so materially differed. Certain it is, however, that there are physical causes for every physical effect, and although these causes may remain for a time concealed, yet they only

require industry and research to effect their discovery. I have, therefore, thrown together some reflections on this important subject, and shall give my opinions with all that diffidence which becomes me; but I will not resign those opinions to any authority but a conviction of their fallacy. If I shall not cause another ray of light to penetrate the cloud, in which this subject is involved, yet I trust I shall not act the part of an *ignis fatuus*, by misleading the votaries of science from the true path. If, however, I shall do no more than point out the road to the temple of Truth, I shall consider my part performed, at least my fondest expectations will then be realized.

The city of Baltimore affords one of the most secure harbours of any of the cities of the United States; but that harbour is of artificial construction. It is familiarly denominated a basin, upon the border of which the city is built. Ships of the largest size come as far as Fell's Point, while for vessels of two hundred tons, it is navigable to its extremity. From this basin, the water passes up into docks, which are intended for the convenience of the bay craft, and other small vessels. These docks are of various dimensions, perhaps from two hundred to five hundred yards in length. Of this character is that upon which the disease first appeared, or rather to which it was first attributed, viz: Smith's Dock. The water in these docks,

seldom or never changes, except by a strong south-easterly wind, to blow up the mass of water, and a strong north-westerly wind to force it back again, occurring the one soon after the other. A piece of wood or other light body, has been observed to float on the water in these docks for weeks together, without any perceptible change in its position, until an occurrence like that above hinted at, produced a circulation in the water. And, indeed, seeing that they are situated so far from the Patapsco river, nearly two miles, which is the principal source from which they derive their contents, it is not at all extraordinary, that the ebbing and flowing of the tides should only in a very trivial degree affect these docks. And it is important to state, that these docks are resorted to by vessels of small size, many of which contain fruit, grain, and other vegetable substances, the refuse of which is frequently thrown overboard, in defiance of the laws, which adds to the stock of like substances, necessarily accumulating from unavoidable sources. These docks, therefore, generate and evolve the *miasma* already spoken of, in large quantities every summer.

But although the cause exists, other collateral circumstances not concurring, the effect has not been extensively produced; yet this argues not at all the absence of the cause, even although no effects were evident. This, however, is not the fact; for, as has already been stated, this same disease, which this



season has become epidemic, has appeared sporadically every season for some years; and what is very remarkable, one or more cases has been traced to this self same spot, Smith's Dock, each season for several years past. The condition of the docks then may be considered the cause of the disease, as originating west of the Falls.

Some peculiarities in the structure of Smith's wharf, as differing from other wharves, have been supposed to have contributed to the production of the malady, by a very worthy and enlightened professor of our city, but not yet having been published, they are private property; and I shall not trespass upon the rules of etiquette by canvassing his opinions. And, indeed, as they are not yet before the world, they do not admit of criticism. If he shall hereafter present them to the public from his own pen, they will be clothed in language and manner, before which my attempts to delineate them would sink into insignificance. I will, therefore, be excused from thus committing myself, since I am informed that it is his intention to publish his opinions himself. It is my duty to give my own sentiments, and my reasons for those sentiments, without having a reference to the doctrines of any man. I am decided in the belief, that the condition of the wharves, the construction of the docks, and the want of a proper circulation in the water contained in them, are the sole causes of the

disease originating in the city, properly so called.

The next inquiry which naturally arises upon this subject is, to what causes are we to attribute the appearance and continuance of the fever on the Point? This is an important inquiry, and to give it a correct solution, will require attention commensurate with its importance. I have given the subject some scrutiny, and will state the result of my investigations, upon the merits of which the public are to decide. "I speak as unto wise men, judge ye what I say."

It is ascertained by actual demonstration, that in filling up the wharves, and making the streets at the east end of Fell's Point, vast quantities of wood have been made use of instead of earth. This may be considered to be one of the causes of the malady; for this wood is now undergoing putrefactive decomposition, as may be easily proven to any one, who will take the trouble to examine. He will find upon digging down two or even three feet into the earth, at the lower end of Wolf-street, (in the vicinity which first afforded evidences of the epidemic,) a mass of chips, shavings, &c. which from putrefaction have become perfectly black and fœtid; and from this mass may be distinctly seen bubbles filled with noxious gas continually evolving. This experiment was performed in the presence of a number of professional gentlemen, and other respectable citizens, with the above

mentioned result. This, however, in my opinion, would not have excited the disease of itself, although I believe it greatly aggravated it, and increased its malignancy. It is certain that it could not have been the only cause, since it raged at the Lazaretto, two miles from this accumulation of ligneous matter, as soon as it prevailed on the Point, and was equally malignant and fatal in proportion to the number diseased. Fort McHenry, situate immediately opposite the Lazaretto, became so much affected, that it was deemed expedient to remove the troops stationed there, which was accordingly done. Hence it is evident, that the nuisance in Wolf and Pitt-streets, at Fell's Point, already spoken of, could not have been the sole cause of our calamity. We are, therefore, to look for some other source for the poisonous agent; and to those who are acquainted with the relative situation of Pitt-street, Fell's Point, to the Lazaretto, and the nuisances existing between them, it is by no means difficult to see the principal, if not the whole cause of our epidemic.

Several large ponds of water, interspersed with the spontaneous growth of dock and other weeds, exist in a direct line between the Lazaretto and Pitt-street, Fell's Point. These ponds are of large size, and contain vegetable matter sufficient, one would suppose, to poison the atmosphere at any season. The water contained in them, is green; and from these ponds arises a mist, forming a

cloud of great extent, which may be seen at any time from May to November, early in the morning. The smell issuing from these ponds is foetid beyond description, at any season of the year; but in the summer months it is almost insupportable. Now it is known to all who made observations on the weather, that for several days before and after the commencement of the disease on Fell's Point, that the wind blew from an easterly direction, which I conceive was the manner, by which the poison was conveyed to the Point.

The cause existing in a concentrated condition upon the surface of these ponds, was wafted by this easterly breeze to the place, where it first produced its visible effects, in Pitt-street, Fell's Point. Here it met with an atmosphere nearly allied to its own nature, from the causes before mentioned. These uniting produced a concentration almost equal to that existing at the place, where the poison was generated in such quantities.

The peculiar manner of its action on the system, I shall not here examine; but will only state, that although it is what is called by the profession, the *remote cause*, and an *exciting cause*, is thought to be necessary to produce the disease; yet if continued it will produce the disease, without any other agent, by acting both as a *remote* and *exciting cause*. This explanation I deem important to state, to give the reader a more explicit view of the subject, and to enable him to un-

derstand these terms, whenever I shall have occasion to use them.

The disease for some time was local, and its circuit circumscribed within very narrow limits; but soon it began to *creep*, and presently, to use the language of one of the medical gentlemen, in his report, it commenced *jumping*, proceeding along the course of the wharves. This, to a superficial observer, would seem to indicate, that the causes existed on the wharves; but I attribute it to the continuance of the easterly wind, which lasted some days. The streets principally affected, were Pitt, Wolf, Ann, George, Fells, Thames, Philpot, Fleet, and Alisanna-streets, nearly in the order in which they are mentioned; and towards the conclusion of the disease, new cases occurred in Wilk, Bank, Bond, Carolina, and Gough-streets, which last street constituted the boundary line, beyond which it did not pass, as far as my information extends, so as to become prevalent.

Having thus briefly enumerated what I conceive to be the causes of the disease, it is distinctly perceptible, that I am decidedly of the opinion, that it is of local origin.

It might now be expected, that I should point out some means of prevention of future repetitions of this calamity; but even if I were competent to this task, it does not comport with my design. I have stated as my belief, that the construction of our docks, and the condition of our basin, in relation to the

Patapsco, from which it chiefly derives its contents, will always expose our city to disease, without active and energetic exertions on the part of the Board of Health. I have also pointed out nuisances in the eastern district of our city, which call for speedy removal. If it shall be found that my hints are at all worthy of consideration, proper measures will no doubt be taken to remove every cause of disease, before another season shall inflict a similar calamity. These hints are the result of much thinking and careful observation, they have cost the author some pains, and if they shall in any degree be useful, his design will be accomplished, and he will be fully remunerated for his time and trouble, in making the investigation.

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## SECTION II.

### *On the Progress of the Epidemic.*

UNTIL the middle of July, our city had enjoyed unusual health; there had been no appearance of any malignant disease, and the bilious cases which did occur, had as yet been mild and manageable. About the middle of this month, however, some evidences were afforded, which induced some of the Faculty to predict a sickly season. A number of the cases of ordinary fever wore an unfriendly aspect. But it was not until the twenty-first of the month, that the first case occurred, which was pronounced yellow fever, in the person of Mr. Larkin Reed, resident in a part of the city distant from any of the remote causes which are ostensible. The next day, being the twenty-second, Mr. John Mott, living near the former gentleman, and under equally favourable circumstances, was taken in a similar manner, but much more violently; for on the twenty-sixth he died, while Reed, although taken before him, did not die until the twenty-seventh, being the sixth day of his disease. These two cases occurring almost simultaneously, excited much alarm, and



various were the speculations relative to their origin. The facts, however, are these; REED was a miller, and daily employed in the steam-mill, owned by Isaac M'Kim, Esq. on Smith's Dock. MOTT had occasionally visited this wharf, although his business was not located there. They had both been on said wharf the evening before Reed was taken; went into a vessel from the Eastern Shore of our own State, and there continued some time, while they ate freely of pears, and perhaps of other fruit, which the vessel contained. To this vessel has the disease been attributed; but I think without reason, since no other persons, who were afterwards diseased, had been known to have communicated with said vessel.

Some supposed the disease to have originated from the schooner Adventure, laden with coffee from the West Indies, while others charged the schooner Proserpine, laden with hides and coffee, with containing the poisonous agent; accordingly, they were both ordered down to the quarantine ground, from which one of them returned the next day, and the other soon afterwards, having been re-examined by the health officer, and their cargoes being found in a perfectly sound condition. These facts I have thought proper to recite, although I do not believe they have had any agency in the production of the malady, since there are overt causes, more than sufficient to

excite yellow fever, without any reference to such doubtful sources.

Soon after these cases, Mr. Wirgman, Mr. Suhr, Mr. Hobin, and Mr. Allen Dorsey, were severally attacked in rapid succession, with a disease, which was boldly declared to be *yellow fever*. These gentlemen, it is very remarkable, were all daily engaged in business on the east side of Smith's Dock, and no other case having arisen in any other part of the city, it may be easily imagined, that the alarm which had hitherto been trivial, became increased and universal. From the time the first case occurred, the Board of Health, in conjunction with the Mayor, had been vigilantly engaged in removing the cause in whatever it consisted. In proof of this, it is only necessary to remark, that so early as the fifth of August, I find the following document on the health office books, viz:

“In consequence of the numerous reports and representations made to the health office, respecting the existence of a nuisance on Smith's wharf, the Board, accompanied by the Mayor, proceeded to an examination, and find that the cause of alarm exists in, and proceeds from the noxious vapours issuing from Gay and Frederick-street docks, and the lumber yard of Mr. H. Price, situate between said docks.”

The Board now had recourse to the only means, which art afforded, for removing the

cause, by passing the following resolution on the seventh of August:

Resolved, that lime be scattered over the alley between Gay and Frederick street docks, and that a quantity of tar be burned in the front and rear of the warehouses on Smith's wharf.

This resolution was faithfully observed and executed; and although some have ridiculed the burning of tar, and even denounced it as an useless and injurious antidote, yet I boldly assert, without fear of successful contradiction, that no better measure could have been adopted, which will appear from its *modus operandi*.

The vapour which is the product of the combustion of tar, is much heavier than atmospheric air. The poisonous agent is also heavy, and by its gravity always occupies the space next the surface of the earth; the vapour of the tar mixes with the noxious atmosphere, (although it cannot chemically combine,) and by this mixture, the poison is so diluted by its extensive diffusion, that its deleterious properties are altogether destroyed. If this explanation be correct, the board could have used no better antidote to the noxious cause. And it is probable, that it is to their exertions, together with the co-operation of the citizens, in speedily removing their business from the infected district, that we are to attribute the speedy cessation of the disease in the city, properly so called.

On the fourteenth day of August, it was reported to the Board of Health, that the disease existed on the lower end of Fell's Point, at least one mile in a direct line from Smith's wharf. This report was made to them by Drs. Martin and Murphy, two of the physicians practising in that district of the city. This of course augmented the public excitement, and increased the vigilance of the Board; for I perceive by their records, that no less than twenty-five nuisances had been discovered, and removed all in a few days.

It was now thought advisable to address a circular to each of the physicians of the City and the Point, and to send this regularly every day, so that daily reports might be made to the public of the new cases and deaths. The following was the form of the circular:

HEALTH OFFICE,  
Baltimore, ———, 1819.

To Doctor ———,

The public anxiety appearing to require a daily report of the health of the city, and the attention of the faculty hitherto paid to the communications of this Board, induce them respectfully to request an answer to the following questions, and such other information, as may appear to you appropriate.

1. Have you any cases of fever commenced within the last twenty-four hours, and likely to prove dangerous? Or,

2. Any deaths, or dangerous fever, which

commenced previous to the time above mentioned?

By Order, P. REIGART,  
Secretary.

Two active men were appointed to carry these circulars daily, to every physician in the City and Point; Joseph Legard, to those west of Jones' Falls, and Noah Fowler, to the east, a duty, which, though an arduous one, was faithfully performed by them, and for which they merited and received much credit. This was the most effectual means the board could have adopted, and was met with promptitude by the physicians, and was continued as long as the disease continued to prevail.

About this time, the Mayor finding the appearances threatening in the extreme, thought it expedient to call a meeting of the Council, for the purpose of adopting such ordinances, as might appear to them necessary.

*August 27, 1819.*

The Council having convened in consequence of a summons from the Mayor, the following communication was received:

*Gentlemen of the City Council,*

The state of the health of the city having devolved new and extraordinary duties on the Board of Health, and occasioned an expenditure of money not contemplated, will render

the appropriation for the health department, wholly insufficient to meet the expenses, which must necessarily be incurred; and unless a favourable change should speedily take place, which from present appearances cannot reasonably be calculated upon, it is impossible to estimate the sum that may be required for this department. Until within the last week, the fever at the Point was local, being confined to Wolf and Pitt-streets; but from the reports of the physicians of the neighbourhood, herewith handed you, its range has been greatly enlarged, and I must confess, that I entertain the most gloomy apprehensions and desponding anticipations, and earnestly recommend every precautionary expedient, the collected wisdom of the City Council can devise, and a liberal appropriation to enable the Board of Health to effect such measures as may be deemed necessary or expedient, to arrest the progress of disease, and to aid in the preservation of the future health of our city.

Signed, EDW. JOHNSON,  
*August 27, 1819.* Mayor.

The following resolution was adopted:  
Resolved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, that a sum not exceeding three thousand dollars, be, and the same is hereby appropriated, to defray such expenses, as may be occurred by the Board of Health in the discharge of their duties.

It was not until the twenty-eighth day of August, that the Board of Health, at the instigation of the mayor, published an explicit statement of the condition of our city. This statement was founded upon the reports made to them by the medical gentlemen, practising in the infected district, so that they did not proceed without the best authority, nor until the most weighty and alarming reasons urged them to the performance of their duty. The following was the document published by them, viz:

#### HEALTH OFFICE.

“The cases of fever at the remote part of Fell’s Point, adverted to in our last report, we are sorry to say, have considerably increased in number, and are very decisively characterized with the symptoms of yellow fever. They amount in number to about fifty cases.

“They are still confined within very narrow limits, and are chiefly traced to the same source, but exhibit indications of slowly extending.—The deaths have hitherto been very few, but most of the cases having occurred within a few days, their results are not yet ascertained; but are estimated at the proportion of one-fifth.

“The Board are disposed to hope the disease may not spread, but have thought it their duty to give this early notice of its unfavourable aspect, and earnestly to advise the citizens.

of that district, to move away as speedily as possible

“By order of the board of health.

“P. REIGART, Cl’k.”

*August 28.*

The Mayor was not ignorant of the excitement which would result, and which ought to result from a declaration proceeding from his office, that within a few days fifty cases of yellow fever had originated in our city. He was aware, that when he should invite the citizens to forsake their homes, and fly from the devastating calamity, that the alarm would become general, and our city would temporarily suffer. He was not ignorant of the enmity which would be generated against him in the breasts of those men, whose “little minds” conceive *self-interest* to be justly the predominant motive of human actions, and who would have approbated his conduct with ardour and zeal, if he had secreted the truth in order to further their views, even if hundreds of lives had been the forfeit. But, as the safeguard of the people, as the head of our civil affairs, “standing upon the wall, should he see the sword coming, and fail to give warning thereof,” then indeed would he have been unworthy of his trust; and the blood of those who fell victims to its effects, would “be required at his hands.” Then would the widow and the orphan, left desolate by the destructive malady, call for ven-



geance to rest upon him, since by neglecting to give warning of danger, he had decoyed them into an exposure to a disease, by which all their earthly hopes of felicity had been torn from their embrace. But by disclosing the truth, he no doubt saved many hundreds of valuable lives. In a word, Mr. Johnson is one of the few individuals, with whom "*when interest and duty are in opposite scales, the latter will ever preponderate.*"

It is true, some very sapiently asserted, when this report was made, that it was the production of groundless fears, and idle forebodings, and many who held this opinion, have forfeited their lives, as the price of their temerity. Now, however, the public are prepared to do justice to the Mayor and Board of Health, since the devastations committed by the raging calamity, have left impressions on the public mind never to be erased. They now appreciate the wisdom and forethought of the civil authorities, and now consent that they deserve the warmest gratitude of an enlightened people.

So soon as the report above alluded to was published, designating Fell's Point as the seat of the prevailing malady, the physicians of that district formed the opinion, that the physicians of the City concealed their cases, designing to throw the opprobrium of local infection on Fell's Point; they accordingly refused to make any reports, which was a matter of considerable regret; for it was only

by these reports, that the public could be informed of the situation of our city from an official source. They, however, being waited on by the mayor and several other influential citizens, consented to renew those reports after a suspension of only a few days. This misunderstanding occasioned an antipathy between the physicians of the Point and those of the City, which was not easily removed. Indeed, so firmly were the former gentlemen convinced, that the latter concealed cases of the yellow fever from motives of policy, that they refused to meet the convention of the faculty; and some of them never gave up this mistaken idea, through the whole course of the epidemic.

On the seventh day of September, the following communication was sent to the several practitioners on Fell's Point, in consequence of some intimations received from Dr. Owen, that the disease was subsiding.

“The Board of Health respectfully request of Dr. ——— the favour of an answer to the following question, viz: Whether the fever which prevailed at the east end of Fell's Point has not materially changed its character, and become from a very fatal and malignant fever, a very mild, manageable, and rarely fatal disease?”

In answer to this question, they unani-  
mously concurred in the negative, and gave

the most explicit statement of the increase of the threatening calamity, which could be made.

This will appear from one of their communications, hereunto annexed.

*To the Board of Health.*

Gentlemen,

In answer to your inquiries, we are of opinion, that the fever prevailing at the east end of Fell's Point, has not materially changed its character, and that those cases coming under our care, are generally in a high degree malignant, and many of them entirely unmanageable; and we also believe the disease to be spreading, and were the inhabitants generally remaining, it would be unusually mortal.

Yours, &c.

W. H. & A. CLENDENIN.

Nothing could be more explicit than this answer, as well as several others of similar purport, which I have in my possession. The board were now well satisfied, that the exertions used by them should be continued and persevered in without any diminution; and from this time no doubt was entertained that the disease was spreading, and that the inhabitants ought to remove. But such was the deficiency of the powers vested in the corporation, that no compulsory measures could be used, and persuasion was unavail-

ing with one half of the population of the infected district, until the grim monster Death seized on almost every family, and roused them from their lethargy; and even then many remained resolved to risk their lives, rather than leave their habitations.

During the time the reports were made with regularity by the physicians, one thousand and sixteen new cases were reported, which comprises those occurring in the City as well as the Point, although only twelve of these cases are supposed to have originated in the City, properly so called, all the rest being traced to the Point. And it is very remarkable, that in almost every instance wherein any person visited the Point at night, the disease was contracted, while those who were only there in the day time, escaped with impunity. This may be accounted for consistently with philosophical principles. The noxious atmosphere, as has already been stated has a specific gravity, much greater than atmospheric air, and occupies the space next the surface of the earth. The rays of the sun heating the earth, the poison must of course rise and be diffused through the surrounding air, so as to be rendered inert. But no sooner does the sun retire beneath the horizon, than a concentration of the poison takes place, which is not again dissipated until the rising of the sun on the succeeding day. This change occurred daily, and may account for the fact, that so few of the physicians con-

tracted the disease, although every day exposed to the local cause. It is farther confirmed by remarking, that those of the medical gentlemen practising in Baltimore, who became infected, were taken in consequence of paying a visit by night to the source of infection, or the vicinity where the cause existed. Several physicians who had been attending patients through the whole course of the fever, in the very centre of infection, in the day time, were exempted from the malady, but by visiting once in the night, they became diseased.

If we admit all the cases reported to be yellow fever, and allow for the cases, which from the obstinacy of the physicians, were not reported, or from the stubborn disposition of the families, or other causes, were not made known to the faculty, together with other incidental circumstances, we may suppose there were about twelve hundred cases of the epidemic. The deaths of yellow fever according to the regular accounts kept by the health office books, were about three hundred, making a proportion of about one-fourth of the number diseased; of these, eighty-five occurred in the Baltimore hospital,\* in patients who

\* Much censure having been bestowed upon the physician and steward of the hospital, I deem it but justice to say a word in their defence. Standing as I do aloof from the interests of the establishment, it cannot be imagined that I am actuated by personal or interested views. What I shall say is the result of

were removed thither from Fell's Point, by the humane interference of our worthy Mayor and Board of Health, where they received constant attention, and every necessary, to make their situation comfortable.

These cases may be considered additional careful inquiry and sober investigation, undertaken partly from the anxiety I felt for the distressing situation of those who were sent there by the corporation, and partly by way of contradicting certain reports, prejudicial to this useful institution, which were industriously circulated through all ranks of the people. The report was, that the poor patients sent thither, were not faithfully attended, nor properly nursed, and that in consequence of this neglect, they died in such great proportion. Although I had been in the habit of calling at the Hospital occasionally, I again visited it on hearing these reports, and without mentioning my business, was permitted as usual to visit the wards occupied by these patients. Here I made careful observation, and found the patients as comfortable as they could be in their morbid condition, and nursed without intermission. The cleanliness of the rooms, and the neatness of the arrangement, was highly creditable to Mr. Gatchell, the steward, and to his assistants. I found nurses in abundance, every article of nutriment and medicine properly administered, and in short, the whole arrangement of the house, and attention to the patients was indicative of the most humane and honourable intentions. And although the Institution has been reviled on account of the number of Deaths occurring within its walls, yet when it is recollected, that many of the patients were in the act of dying when received, and some died in a few hours after admission, it will not be considered wonderful, that the proportion should be greater than in the City, where they were generally taken in time. Thirty-two cases received into the institution were hopeless, at the period of their admission.

to the number reported to the Health Office, for a great proportion of them, at least, were taken with the disease, and conveyed to the Hospital, without being visited by any Physician.

Of the one hundred and forty-one cases admitted into the Hospital, ten died within twenty-four hours after their admission, having been prescribed for and retained on the Point until their cases were mortal, and then conveyed thither for the convenience of dying.

As the disease progressed, the inhabitants gradually left their dwellings, and were compelled to seek for homes at a distance, for every house was soon filled in the healthy part of the city. The inconveniences to which many were thus placed, were almost incredible. Scarcely a mill, barn, or stable, within any reasonable distance from the city, but was occupied by some of these fugitives. Accustomed to comfortable accommodations and wholesome fare, until this sad event, they were illy qualified to bear the privations consequent upon their flight. Many became sick, and others died from the hardships to which they were now exposed. Driven from their homes, they were left at the mercy of the inhabitants of the surrounding country. Many of these, to their praise be it spoken, received them with that humanity, which their desolate situation required. Some there were, however, although few in number, who, finding that the fugitives were necessitated to

obtain a residence somewhere, required enormous compensations for their houses, thus making the necessities of the poor, their opportunities to add to their coffers. But to such individuals, strictures on their conduct are perfectly inert; the tender feelings of sympathy dwell not in their callous hearts; they are destitute of that principle, which can alone exalt or ennoble the human character: without it, man differs in no essential point, from the beast which perisheth, and is utterly unworthy of our respect or attention. To such an one, reason disdains to speak, and contempt silences censure. Yet as a historian, I must state the fact, and having done so, I have fulfilled my duty.

The disease progressed without much intermission, until towards the close of September, when the following very important and honourable documents were published:

#### CLERICAL NOTICE.

In consequence of previous notice, a number of clergymen of different denominations, met in the vestry-room of St. Paul's Church, on last Saturday, the eighteenth instant. The right Rev. Dr. Kemp was called to the chair, and the Rev. Mr. Hargrove appointed secretary. The object of the meeting was stated by the chairman to be as follows:—Inasmuch as it has pleased the Almighty to visit a remote section of our city, called Fell's Point, with a malignant and mortal



fever, it was deemed highly proper to call upon the citizens to devote a day to fasting, humiliation, and prayer to Almighty God, that of his infinite mercy and goodness, he would be pleased to arrest this severe calamity, where it does prevail, and to protect our city from its influence, where it has not yet appeared.

On motion, it was *resolved*, that the pious object of the meeting meets the unanimous approbation of this body.

*Resolved*, That next Thursday, the twenty-third of this month, be appointed a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer, that the citizens be requested to suspend, on that day, all worldly business, to humble themselves before the Almighty in deep contrition for their sins; to meet in their several places of divine worship, and to join in prayer to the Supreme Being, that in the midst of judgment he would remember mercy, and avert those evils, which our sins have most justly deserved.

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to wait on the Mayor, and solicit his sanction of and co-operation in this matter. The committee appointed, were the right Rev. Dr. Kemp, the Rev. Mr. Duncan, and the Rev. Dr. Jennings.

JAMES KEMP,  
Chairman.

John Hargrove, Secretary.

## A PROCLAMATION.

Whereas, from the pious usages of our forefathers, and the example of holy men in all ages of the church, we are taught to believe, that in times of great public or private calamity, we ought in a peculiar manner to humble ourselves before the Supreme Governor of the Universe, to acknowledge our dependence on Him, who is the supreme arbiter of events, to confess our manifold offences, and to supplicate his tender mercies in averting the manifestations of his great displeasure. Impressed with those solemn and awful truths, the clergy of the various denominations of christians in this city, have recommended that a day of humiliation, fasting, and prayer, be set apart, and the several worshipping assemblies meet on that day, for the purpose of imploring *Almighty God*, that he would be pleased to arrest the progress of the malady now prevailing at Fell's Point, and restore our city to its wonted health.

Now, therefore, I, Edward Johnson, Mayor of the city of Baltimore, pursuant to the foregoing recommendation of the reverend clergy, do hereby recommend and advise that *Thursday* next be set apart as a day of humiliation, prayer, and fasting, and that all persons within said city do abstain from their ordinary occupations on that day, and from all worldly recreations and amusements.

EDW. JOHNSON,

Sept. 29, 1819.

Mayor.

It is certain that a very material change occurred soon after this period. The wind which had blown from the south-east with much violence, in a direction which favoured the progress of the disease towards the healthy part of the City, veered suddenly round to the north-west, and blew with such force from this quarter, that the basin was thoroughly washed out; a general cleansing of the filthy situation of the docks, was the result, and the evidences which had been previously afforded, that the disease was progressing towards the healthy districts of the City, ceased to be exhibited. No case, I can confidently assert, occurred, originating north of Gough-street, from this period, although it had reached this street, at this time, having extended several squares in twenty-four hours in several instances just before. And, indeed, had it not been for this providential interference, there was evident grounds to believe, that the malady would have been universally diffused. It is true, the cold-hearted infidel may contemn such allusions to the Supreme Governor of the Universe; the haughty sceptic may arrogate to himself the right to deny such a Divine Agency; but to the individual, who is acquainted with the infinite variety of means, by which the Great Eternal directs the revolutions of all events; to that heart which has been warmed by the operations of Divine grace, no arguments need be given to establish the correctness of

the above remark. "Facts are stubborn things," and with such facts, retreating behind the impregnable barrier of Truth, we may defy the efforts of sceptics or infidels.

I would not be understood to say, that I impute altogether the favourable change, which occurred at this period, to this religious act; for I have already alluded to the removal of the inhabitants and other causes, as contributory to this effect: but I am decidedly of opinion, and I conceive that opinion to be defensible, that we ought to impute, in a very great degree, the exemption of the City, *properly so called*, from disease, to the immediate agency of Providence; and that this merciful interposition would not have been made, had it not been for the prayers of our pious fellow-citizens, is an hypothesis by no means enthusiastic or superstitious. Certain it is, that after this period the malady did not spread, except in a very limited degree, although the appearances were threatening in the extreme. The report of one of the most respectable physicians of the Point, made prior to this period, contains a sentiment of this kind.—"Hitherto," said he, "the disease has been *creeping*, but it is now beginning to *jump*, for I find it has traversed two squares since last night."

The uncomfortable situation in which many of our citizens were placed, during their absence from their homes, is one great reason they were so anxious to return. Many did

return before it was justifiable to do so, and suffered the ravages of the disease, and some fell victims to Death. The Board of Health repeatedly enforced the propriety of delaying their return until the fact should justify them in giving a general invitation. These sentiments of the Board were repeatedly published in the newspapers of the City, and the people were earnestly entreated not to return until a special invitation should be announced officially from the Health Office, which they promised should be given in proper time. But it is not very surprising, seeing their uncomfortable situation, living as some did in old barns, stables, and other wretched hovels, that they did return, although dangerous in the extreme.

On the thirtieth day of October, this invitation was given, and the inhabitants informed officially, that they might safely return, and thus terminated the career of the Epidemic.

Very few cases occurred after this period, and in fact, the Point became peculiarly healthy, and has been so from that time to the present. The inhabitants generally returned, and in a few days that part of Baltimore, which had been the seat of the epidemic, became the theatre of all the ordinary pursuits of life. Those streets which had seldom been traversed, except by the physicians, the attendants of the sick, and the slow, lonely hearse, were crowded with the busy

products of commerce, and frequented by the votaries of Fashion. The features of fear and dismay were exchanged for the smiles of beauty, and useful contentment supplanted all alarm.

EPIDEMIC OF 1810

Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text appears to be a historical account or report, possibly detailing the spread and impact of a disease in 1810. The handwriting is cursive and difficult to decipher due to fading and bleed-through.

### SECTION III.

#### *On the Provision made for the Poor.*

THE visitation of our city in the manner described, by this direful calamity, devolved new and extraordinary duties on the Board of Health, and required funds in proportion, which were at once afforded on application to the Council.

The first and most important duty which became requisite, was to provide for those who were unable to remove from the infected District, by reason of their poverty, and who, if suffered to remain, from their uncomfortable situation and exposed condition, would certainly become diseased. A Board of Commissioners was accordingly enlisted, at first composed of six, but afterwards two more were added, who were to make every necessary arrangement, so that all the poor might be removed from the diseased District. They were to receive no compensation, save that which a conscious testimony of their benevolent intentions would afford them: no recompense, except that which always accompanies the performance of virtuous actions.



They waited upon Owen Dorsey, Esq. a gentleman of high respectability, and solicited the use of a rope-walk owned by him, for the purpose of admitting the distressed families from Fell's Point, and affording them a defence from the fate which hovered over them. He at once consented, and prepared his rope-walk for their reception, nobly refusing any pecuniary recompense. And now the poorer citizens of that part of Fell's Point, affected with disease, were invited to come and be supported at the expense of the Corporation, if this should be required; but the warm-hearted benevolence of our citizens forbade it. This receptacle was soon filled, and a temporary embarrassment would have occurred, but for the kindness of Mr. Christopher Chapman, the proprietor of a rope-walk one thousand feet in length, adjacent to the former one, who generously gave it up to their use without fee or reward. It was afterwards found necessary to pitch above one hundred tents and markees, beside the rope-walks, by which means all were accommodated, who were deemed worthy of charity. Above one thousand persons were now received, and comfortable apartments appropriated to each family; these were to be supplied with provisions and every other necessary, for an indefinite period. The Corporation had previously appropriated one thousand dollars out of the funds, towards accomplishing this object, but it was afterwards returned, the sup-

plies from individuals and from other sources being amply sufficient to defray every expense.

No sooner was the encampment prepared, than subscriptions were opened for its support, and I need not add, were met with energy by the citizens. Notwithstanding the pressure of the times, the stagnation of business, the recent failures of our first commercial houses, and of one of our banks, the total loss of our autumnal trade, and all the threatening calamities which seemed to hover over us; yet such was the zeal of our citizens, that all these accumulated woes were forgotten, in the important duties which they were now called upon to perform. But why should I consume time, by attempting to prove the generosity of Baltimore? Has it not always been her characteristic, to relieve misery and distress, wherever it existed within her knowledge? And who does not feel an honest pride in belonging to such a people? The warm emotions of my mind are too powerful to be suppressed. I glory in being a Baltimorean; and I sometimes think I feel similar sensations to those felt by individuals in former times, who used to declare, with an air of consequence, "I am a Roman Citizen;" whose honest pride induced them to prize their alliance to a City so universally feared, more than any other earthly consideration. If, then, a Roman Citizen were proud of that citizenship, because of the power possessed and abused by Rome, shall we not be proud

of our title to citizenship, when that pride arises from her being the most generous and humane City in the Union, or perhaps in the world? Let it not be thought censorious to assert, that Philadelphia and New-York, with twice the population, do not possess half the liberality of Baltimore, since the fact will not admit of successful contradiction. In proof of this assertion, let any honest man read the records of the fever of 1798, in the city of Philadelphia, and he will discover, that no sooner did the news arrive in Baltimore, that provision was made for the suffering poor in that city, during said calamity, than a town-meeting was immediately called. And for what purpose? Was it to hold a consultation to determine how we might prevent any "person or things" from entering our port, which might have been in the city of Philadelphia, and how we might retard the charitable efforts of our "*sister city*" for humane purposes? No; on the contrary, it was for the purpose of raising a sum of money to aid them in their attempts to imitate our liberality.\* Several hundreds of dollars were at once collected and forwarded, and although their

\* The liberality of Baltimore has always been proverbial; and although our city is not exempt from those evils with which all cities abound, yet this does not detract from the truth of the general observation. Our citizens may have been wicked, but they are brave and hospitable, liberal and benevolent, generous and humane.

wants were not such as to require our assistance, yet this did not lessen the merit of the action on our part, nor the debt of gratitude on theirs.

But how have they reciprocated? By pursuing exactly an opposite course. Their "wise men of the East," were convened, and passed a law of strict non-intercourse, to be binding thirty days, and afterwards extended fifteen days in addition, under a heavy penalty, extending to "all persons or things which may have been in the City of Baltimore." But more of this when speaking of Quarantine Regulations in general.

The encampment being established, it was officially announced, that at certain warehouses in different parts of the city, donations would be received for its maintenance, in goods of any kind, suited for the use of the poor, either articles of food or raiment. And at the office of the Treasurer of the Commissioners, the public were informed, that donations in cash would be gratefully received for the same purpose. These several places of deposit having been selected, the citizens began to vie with each other in the extent of their beneficence. Flour, Bread, Beef, Pork, Bacon, Fish, Potatoes, &c. were all sent in abundance to each of the warehouses appointed for the purpose, and daily reports were made to the public of the articles received, together with the names of the donors, when these were annexed to the donation. It has

been supposed, upon a moderate computation, that eight thousand dollars would not have purchased the articles which were contributed; and the Treasurer of the Commissioners received above four thousand dollars in cash, amounting in all to upwards of twelve thousand dollars, in addition to the appropriation of three thousand dollars by the City Council, and the one thousand advanced by the Mayor, which last was returned, as has already been remarked.

But to our citizens alone the honour of this unexampled scene of diffusive charity, does not solely belong; for the farmers in the adjacent country, generally forwarded straw, cabbages, apples, cider, meal, flour, and vegetables of all kinds, besides many contributions in cash. And the conduct of the inhabitants of Tawney Town and Union Town, Frederick County, Maryland, ought never to be forgotten: these, with the benevolence of Georgetown, D. C. in contributing seven hundred dollars towards the fulfilment of this grand object, greatly increased the ambition of our own citizens, and by the combined efforts of our neighbours, and our own inhabitants, the Encampment was supplied with every necessary for its support, and rendered a peculiar blessing to those who were the unfortunate subjects of its generosity: for without it, several hundreds would have been added to our list of mortality; the number of wretched widows and orphans would have

been much augmented; and the distresses of the ensuing winter greatly aggravated. Indeed, none can calculate the extent of the malady, had not the removal of the inhabitants been the means used, by which it was said to the raging calamity, "thus far shalt thou come, but no farther."

The benevolent efforts of the Commissioners were considerably promoted by the establishment of a soup-house at the Encampment, which was performed by the energetic activity of Richardson Stewart, James Mosher, and Edward J. Coale, Esqrs. aided by some of our most influential citizens. Upwards of one hundred gallons of rich wholesome soup, were daily made at this establishment, and distributed to each family in quantities proportionate to the number composing said family. This soup-house was of large size, and if built on ordinary principles, would probably have cost three or four hundred dollars, but I was informed by one of the gentlemen engaged in the Establishment, that ten dollars covered the whole expense, all else being obtained by voluntary contribution, both the materials and the labour.

Such was the manner in which the Encampment was supported, and on the twenty-fifth day of October, it was broken up, and the inhabitants returned to their homes, each being previously furnished with three days' provision. It was established on the third

day of September, and continued in all fifty-three days, during which time above three hundred families were regularly supplied with provision, and every other necessary to defend them from the calamity.

The humane interference of Georgetown has already been noticed; but in order to exhibit it in its fairest light, the following correspondence will not be thought uninteresting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

Mayor's Office, Georgetown, Oct. 8, 1819.

*To Edward Johnson, Esq. Mayor of Baltimore.*

SIR,—I have the honour herewith to inclose you a copy of the proceedings of a meeting, held in this town on the third instant, and take great pleasure, in pursuance of the tenor of the fourth resolution of said proceedings, to transmit to you the sum of *seven hundred dollars*—and, in the name of the citizens of Georgetown, to solicit that it may be accepted as a small token of their sympathy for that portion of your population, which has been overtaken by a calamitous visitation, and that it be applied in meliorating the condition of the sufferers, under such regulations as may have been entered into, by the authorities of Baltimore, for their relief.

I avail myself of this occasion, to assure you of my individual solicitude for the afflicted

of your city; and sincerely hope and pray, the period of their distress is near its close.

Very respectfully, Sir,

I am your obedient servant,

**HENRY FOXALL,**  
Mayor of Georgetown.

Here followed the resolutions and proceedings.

City of Baltimore, Oct. 9, 1819.

*Henry Foxall, Esq. Mayor of Georgetown.*

SIR,—With feelings that more easily occur to the generous mind, than any language of mine can describe, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, enclosing a copy of the proceedings of the warm-hearted citizens of Georgetown, with the result of their efforts to relieve the distress occasioned by the prevalence of a malignant disease in a district of this city, and have handed over to the Treasurer of the Commissioners appointed for this work, the seven hundred dollars enclosed. In the name of an afflicted people, who know how to estimate this act, permit me, through you, to thank the people of Georgetown for their distinguished liberality, and to offer up my warmest wishes to Him, “who walketh in the pestilence,” that he will take them into his especial keeping, and protect them from all evil.



And for yourself, Sir, be pleased to accept our thanks for the very affectionate and feeling manner, in which this noble charity has been transmitted by you.

Very respectfully,  
I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

EDW. JOHNSON,  
Mayor of Baltimore.

This noble charity was also suitably acknowledged by the Commissioners in their official capacity, and the sum appropriated according to the intention of the donors.

The health of the inhabitants of the Encampment, was truly remarkable; for during the whole time of their continuance in the rope-walks, only six persons died there; five others who contracted the disease at the Point, but became affected after their removal to the Encampment, were carried to the Hospital, and died there, making in all only eleven Deaths in the whole number who were collected from the Diseased District. The Whooping Cough which was prevalent and unusually fatal in the City and surrounding country, made its appearance among the children in the rope-walks, and, as I am informed, above fifty cases existed there at once; and yet no death occurred from this very troublesome, and sometimes very fatal disease. This is very remarkable, since at this very junc-

ture, one or more children daily fell victims to Whooping Cough in the City.

The Board were not unmindful of the condition of the Poor, who were already diseased; they provided that those who were so situated as to be deprived of proper care and attention, should be removed to the Hospital, where they would be well taken care of at the expense of the City; they employed one of the Physicians of the Point, to attend to the poor in general, and provided at the house of Captain Murphy, articles of nutriment, such as flour, rice, sago, wine, brandy, sugar, tea, and sundry other useful medicaments, for the use of convalescents; these were subject to the order of any practising physician, to be delivered to the poor in suitable proportions; from which arrangement great benefit resulted. Prior to this period, many who were safely carried through the disease, by the humane attention of the several Physicians, afterwards died for want of proper nutriment and suitable management. By this measure, therefore, no doubt many were saved from dissolution.

The case of your child's daily health is  
 of the greatest importance. It is not  
 the least of our duty to see that the  
 condition of the city is such that  
 these children are protected from  
 every source of disease. It is our  
 duty to see that the city is clean  
 and healthy, and that every child  
 has the best possible chance of  
 living. It is our duty to see that  
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## SECTION IV.

### *On Contagion.*

SUCH is the proneness to error, evinced by all the performances of man, that it may well be supposed to be inseparable from his character. No sooner does he embark on the sea of life, than he meets with rolling waves and tempestuous billows, which convince him that his calculations of peace and calmness on his voyage, have been marked with glaring errors and formidable absurdities. If he launch his bark in scientific researches, expecting applause and veneration from those who behold him, calculating on immortal honours from his fellow men; surges of persecution, storms of ridicule, and hurricanes of malicious envy, soon destroy all his hopes, and he is wrecked on those quicksands of error, which are inherent in his nature.

In no Science has this sentiment been more evidently exhibited, than in that of Medical Theory. At one period, a doctrine is announced by a man of superior talents, and adopted with universal consent; but no sooner has it appeared, than another of equal rank comes forward with the ploughshare of criti-

cism, drives it through the masses of error, which he, with eagle eyes, sees at a glance; he soon overturns the visionary delusions of his predecessor, and his doctrine becomes the phantom of the age. Scarcely is this hero inscribed on the scroll of Fame, before a writer appears, fulminating against absurdities and false doctrines, which he beholds in all who have preceded him, denouncing them all as mistaken enthusiasts, or ignorant pretenders. He also establishes another theory, in which he sees excellencies innumerable, and which he fondly hopes will endow him with immortal honour; this soon falls before another champion of criticism, and his also shares a similar fate. Thus, in rapid succession, theory succeeds to theory, hypothesis to hypothesis, until the world is filled with idle speculations, which only tend to delude the minds which they design to instruct, and contribute to the obscurity of those subjects, which they are intended to explain.

Every age supposes itself to be the emporium of scientific truth, and every succeeding age looks on the former one as having arrived at the very climax of superstition and folly. We wonder at the silly throng, who listened to the absurdities of former years, with admiration and delight; we view with pity and indignation the enthusiastic votaries of Science, who swallowed the crude and undigested doctrine of the Humoral Pathology, and it is more than probable that future ages

may laugh at our superstitious follies, and view us in the same light, as we now view the alchemists, or those who searched after the philosopher's stone. Nay, the very truths and propositions which we now view as self-evident and incontrovertible, may after a short lapse of years, be deemed the products of a distempered imagination, and a deluded brain; and the authors of our most distinguished theories, be consigned to the pages of infamy and disgrace, if they are suffered to escape the gloom of oblivion.

But although hypothetical speculation is thus deceitful in its result, yet the doctrine of contagion is certainly at present on a much more permanent basis, than it has ever been heretofore, since it has never been rendered in any degree intelligible, until the present. Solar and Lunar influence; the agency of comets; the vapors evolved from the bowels of the earth, by the concussion of earthquakes; and the doctrine of animalculæ; have each been severally resorted to, as explanations of contagion. Some have attributed all contagious diseases to visitations from Heaven, while others open the abyss of Hell, and call for Infernal agency to account for their phenomena. While our doctrine, at present received, seeks not for foreign aid, but from rational and correct premises, deduces undeniable conclusions. My remarks, however, being intended to apply to the Yellow Fever alone, I shall not consider the doctrine of con-

tagion in its more extensive application, but shall restrict my reflections to the subject in hand.

It is certain that the Yellow Fever only exists in those Districts of country where Bilious Intermittent and Remittent Fevers prevail, nor was it ever known to exist further than 50° N. Latitude, although opportunities for the transmission of contagion are equal in every place, and the possibility of the importation of contagious virus every where similar. From these facts I deduce the inference that the same cause which produces Bilious Intermittent and Remittent Fevers, also produces the Yellow Fever; and that the one is as contagious as the other. But the advocates of contagion will repeat what has been often said, that a disease may be strictly contagious and yet originate from *marsh effluvia*, and although it does originate from this cause still however its becoming epidemic proves that it is contagious. This is in effect to say, that two distinct causes produce the same definite effect, which is by no means admissible. If *marsh effluvia* will excite yellow fever, to-day, the same cause will re-excite it to-morrow, and thus it will extend, without receiving assistance from any other agent. Moreover to admit this kind of causation, would be to depart from that rule which enjoins "not to admit more causes than are true, and absolutely necessary for the solution of any phenomenon."

Dr. Davidge, the learned Professor of Ana-

tomy in the University of Maryland appears to be the first gentleman in America who publicly defended the non-contagious nature of Yellow Fever, which he did in 1798; although some other professional gentlemen profess to have adopted similar opinions about the same time. But as these opinions were not made public, being known only to their possessors, they are not at all to be taken into the account. Dr. Davidge therefore, may be justly considered the author of the opinion that the disease is not contagious.

The great source of error in the public mind, has arisen from a want of the proper distinction being preserved between the terms *infection* and *contagion*, which distinction being maintained will overturn many of the obstacles to a union of sentiment between the members of the profession, and the public at large. This union of sentiment is what all our arguments are intended to effect, but what they have hitherto failed to accomplish. Their failure in my opinion however, arises from obvious sources. The publications which have appeared for the ostensible purpose of convincing the public of the non-contagious nature of the disease, have been written in a style of mystery, and clothed in such a professional garb, that they are only intelligible to minds accustomed to technical phraseology. In truth, the common people have been invited to participate in the delights afforded by speculative ingenuity, when those delights



were kept beyond their reach, by the dogmatism of their authors, or their fondness for pompous bombast. An essay written on a professional subject, may be rendered equally intelligible to the citizen as to the philosopher, by being arrayed in a garb consistent with the acquirements and habits of each. To describe the constituent properties of a ray of the sun, by speaking of its analysis produced by the aid of a prism to an ordinary citizen, in professional terms, would be illy calculated to please or profit; while to tell him that by the aid of a triangular glass a single solar beam may be so divided as to exhibit the variegated colours of the rainbow, would be intelligible at least, if it did not amuse or instruct.

This apparent digression is intended to show, that if the arguments which have been used, and the labours that have been performed, for the purpose of convincing the professional world that the disease is not a contagious one, had been employed to satisfy the common people of the impossibility of a diseased body communicating Yellow Fever to a healthy one; long since it would have been considered presumptuous to hold an opposite opinion. But the great mass of the people are without those reasons furnished by philosophy, and which would at once settle the dispute on this point; and they are without them because the writers on the subject have in general clothed their ideas and arguments

in so technical a style, that to them they are dark and incomprehensible. I shall endeavour to satisfy every impartial and candid man, that the disease is not contagious, by arguments and facts, which however little merit they may intrinsically possess, will still have the advantage of being written in a plain and comprehensible language.

I shall be as brief, as is consistent with perspicuity.

1. No disease which is contagious, can originate from any other cause beside contagion; the Yellow fever has originated in the centre of cities thickly populated, and but one single case has occurred, of course could not have been caused by contagion; therefore the Yellow Fever cannot be contagious.

2. All diseases arising from the same cause partake of the same specific nature, differing only in grade; the Remittent fever, the Fever and Ague, Dysentery, Cholera Morbus, and Summer complaint of children, all arise from the same cause as Yellow Fever; therefore the one is as contagious as the other.

3. If the disease were contagious, there would be no instances of its occurring in the country, remote from those associations which tend to favor contagious maladies; yet the Yellow Fever has been known to occur spontaneously in isolated districts of country, and no person contract the disease, although constant intercourse had been preserved with the sick by the rest of the family; therefore the Yellow Fever is not contagious.

4. Diseases which are strictly contagious in their character, are always propagated by the secretions from the skin, and other parts of the diseased body, being applied to a healthy body under circumstances favorable to its absorption; but the secretions of patients in the Yellow Fever, have been used by way of experiment under the most favorable circumstances for the propagation of the disease. The blood taken from patients dying with the Fever, has been inserted by inoculation under the skin of a healthy body; the sweat has been used in like manner with entire exemption from the disease. The secretions of the stomach have been used in a similar manner, and so certain was one member of our profession that the disease could not be communicated, and so anxious was he to convince the public of the fact, that being blessed with a stomach of firmer texture than his fellows, he boldly swallowed a considerable quantity of the black vomit from a dying patient, and permitted it to remain until conveyed away by the natural process. Thus he placed the most putrid discharge from a patient in this disease in the most suitable place to favor its absorption, with total impunity.

5. The fact, that when a district is affected with the cause of the disease, and persons seized with the fever are conveyed out of the spot locally infected to a healthy situation, in no individual case was the malady contracted from such persons, ought forever to establish

its non-contagious nature. In the recent calamity on Fell's Point this truth was most completely elucidated. It was as easy to separate the healthy from the diseased portion of the Point, as it would be to stretch a line across a room, so circumscribed was the extent of the noxious poison. And although a continual intercourse was kept open between the City and Point, and diseased persons constantly carried up to the centre of the City and dying there, yet in no instance was the disease thus communicated. And a fact still more remarkable is, that in the Hospital where there was an accumulation of the worst cases, yet in no instance was a Physician, nurse, attendant or visitor diseased. This however is a familiar fact to professional men. It is a fact which has induced many of our citizens to renounce their preconceived opinions on this subject. For in the height of the prevalence of the malady, the Hospital was visited by our civil authorities, and several gentlemen who had previously been contagionists. When it was known that the mayor of our city had been in the room of the Hospital, where the patients in the fever were confined, many accused him with presumption, and predicted that he would soon fall a victim. He however was not to be impeded from the performance of his duty by such phantoms; he frequently repeated his visits, and now is more than ever confirmed in his opinion of its non-contagious nature; and many others were convinced by similar occurrences.

The first part of the book is devoted to a general history of the world, from the beginning of time to the present day. The author traces the progress of the human race from its first appearance on the globe to the establishment of the various empires and kingdoms which have successively ruled over it. He then proceeds to a detailed account of the political and social condition of the world at the present time, and finally to a prediction of the future of the human race.

The second part of the book is devoted to a history of the British Empire, from its first establishment in the West Indies to its present extent over the whole world. The author describes the progress of the British Empire from its first settlement in the West Indies to its present extent over the whole world. He then proceeds to a detailed account of the political and social condition of the British Empire at the present time, and finally to a prediction of the future of the British Empire.

The third part of the book is devoted to a history of the British Empire, from its first establishment in the West Indies to its present extent over the whole world. The author describes the progress of the British Empire from its first settlement in the West Indies to its present extent over the whole world. He then proceeds to a detailed account of the political and social condition of the British Empire at the present time, and finally to a prediction of the future of the British Empire.

The fourth part of the book is devoted to a history of the British Empire, from its first establishment in the West Indies to its present extent over the whole world. The author describes the progress of the British Empire from its first settlement in the West Indies to its present extent over the whole world. He then proceeds to a detailed account of the political and social condition of the British Empire at the present time, and finally to a prediction of the future of the British Empire.

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The tenth part of the book is devoted to a history of the British Empire, from its first establishment in the West Indies to its present extent over the whole world. The author describes the progress of the British Empire from its first settlement in the West Indies to its present extent over the whole world. He then proceeds to a detailed account of the political and social condition of the British Empire at the present time, and finally to a prediction of the future of the British Empire.

## SECTION V.

### *Continuation of the subject of Contagion.*

THE doctrine of contagion is fraught with consequences so deleterious to that harmony and tranquility which is essential to our happiness, in our mutual relations to each other as members of the community; that it ought not for a moment to be indulged or countenanced, unless where the most indubitable evidences are afforded that the nature of the malady is strictly and unequivocally contagious.

As has already been remarked, it is important that the distinction between the terms *infection* and *contagion* be acknowledged and maintained. Although lexicographers generally consider these words as synonymous, yet each has a definition appropriated to it at this day by universal consent. Many diseases are *infectious* which are not *contagious*, and the Yellow Fever is one of those diseases. I would define these words as follows, viz.

*Infection.* When by being exposed to a noxious atmosphere, or the effluvia arising from putrefaction, whereby the "*pabulum of*

life," the air, is rendered impure, or so mingled with gases, that the system does not receive the necessary nutriment from its inhalation, disease is produced; we say the disease is excited by infection. These diseases may be contracted any number of times by the same individual.

*Contagion.* This term implies a specific quality of a malady by which it may be communicated from a sick to a healthy body, by the latter inhaling the breath of the former, or by actual contact, and by its rendering the subject of it forever after unsusceptible of the disease.\*

From these definitions it will appear that the mass of mankind use these words without reference to the appropriate meaning of each, considering them both as conveying a similar idea, for this is the general understanding among the common people. It is also a mortifying reflection that some of those whose professional rank and literary attainments render them conspicuous, do not acknowledge this distinction, plausible as it may appear; or if they do acknowledge it, exhibit by their modes of expression when on the subject of Yellow Fever, that they disbelieve what they acknowledge. And while this continues to

\* I allude to contagious fevers, for there are some local diseases which are contagious, which may be taken more than once; this however does not detract from the truth of the above assertion in a general way.

be the case, we need not expect the errors we deprecate to be removed. When members of our own profession, instead of propagating truth, contribute to the distribution of superstitious error, we are not to expect but that those errors will reflect light and borrow strength from those professional men. And were professional men unanimously to agree in the suppression of this fiction of the imagination, and unite their efforts to dissipate the fogs of contagion from the eyes of the public, we might probably have some prospect of success in our efforts thus united. But while medical men of high standing, whose age and experience ought to have taught them better things, continue to uphold the doctrine of contagion, because they learned it when young, from men who were elevated in the profession, and from whom nothing but pure light and truth ought to have emanated, it will always find advocates enough from the vulgar and thus be perpetuated. Great names seldom fail to commit great errors. And when a doctrine, however absurd, proceeds from a source highly respectable, there are hundreds, whose vision is so eclipsed by the lustre of great names, that they receive it at once as evangelical truth. Hence it is, that great men are dangerous to literature, and their greatness is frequently ruinous to their own intellectual faculties. When men become well acquainted with any branch of Science, and their superiority becomes notorious, they be-



come too conscious of that superiority; and instead of persevering in the pursuit of Science, they become engrossed in the contemplation of their own intrinsic excellence. Their aberrations from orthodox sentiments is not then to be wondered at, since they depend upon their own merits for success, and not upon the excellence of their performance. Their names, not their ideas, render them popular. That deference for authority, that respect for great names which is inherent in man, and which renders him susceptible of the grossest errors, and exposes him to the admission of folly, and absurdity, is justly to be reprehended. It has caused the wheels of Science to be retarded in their progress to literary truth. Many a bright luminary in the scientific world, for fear of the persecution consequent upon an opposition to received opinions, has withheld the most important facts and doctrines, and they have been totally lost. Men have such unlimited partiality to the doctrines which they first imbibed, to the theories which they first adopted, that they will never renounce them until driven by compulsory efforts from their delusive infatuation. Thus error and absurdity will adhere to our nature; folly will disenthroned reason; and ignorance will revel on the altar where wisdom should hold unrivalled sway; until we shall shake off the shackles which enchain our noble powers, and destroy those cords which bind us fast to received opinions. Never will

truth prevail in scientific pursuits, until reason shall assume her sovereignty, and prostrate titles and names into eternal oblivion. Then shall the sons of science increase in number and exertion, until truth and light shall be universally diffused.

The contagious nature of Yellow Fever is one of the superstitions of darker ages, which still is wont to adhere to modern philosophy. It is a doctrine sanctioned universally until within a few years, by the wise and learned of the profession in every country, and admitted as irrefragable truth. To our country was reserved the honor of first attempting its overthrow. But this attempt was not made until we had partook of the deleterious effects which its admission has produced in every clime. Our establishment of Lazarettoes and quarantine laws evidenced that the Sun of Science was still obscured by fogs of error and inconsistency, and that its genial rays had not yet dissipated those mists which covered the habitable globe. The Genius of Philosophy wept at the contemplation of such gross absurdity, and refused to enter the Temple dedicated to her, while darkness veiled her altar in obscurity. Such was the perversion of her sacred abode, that even the oracles which were appealed to for truth, only emitted light sufficient to make "darkness visible." But this only lasted for a time; the rays of Science soon scattered those clouds by commissioning her sons to protest against such

sacrilegious errors. Their efforts as yet have not been so successful as was desirable. Still some are found who in defiance of the light which now has spread abroad, refuse to yield their favorite hypotheses to practical truth. Having proclaimed their sentiments in favour of contagion they are not willing to abandon those sentiments lest it should detract from that infallibility which they claim as a constituent of their character. And although the happiness and interests of their fellow-citizens call for the surrender of their sentiments, and although facts occurring daily before their eyes prove the folly of the doctrine, and the mischievous consequences which result from its belief, still they cleave to their opinions at the expense of the interests of the whole community; and exclaim "what I have written, I have written."

The truth however has not been without able and ingenious advocates, and it must and will prevail in defiance of the efforts of contagionists or the exertions of empiricism. "Facts are stubborn things," and when these facts are so easy of access to an enlightened community, their decision must be in accordance with these facts.

I cannot dismiss this subject without glancing at the remains of this doctrine which were evinced during the existence of the late Epidemic in Baltimore, by the civil authorities of the city of Philadelphia, a city which should last of all inculcate such absurdity,

since that city produced but a few years since a luminary of Science, whose bright lustre of character has not been extinguished with the lamp of his life, but which will shine with splendour and grandeur when his persecutors shall sink beneath the surges of a dark oblivion. Yes, the spirit of Rush looks down with grief to see Science prostrated, and truth sacrificed at the shrine of ignorance and superstition. His name and merits are dishonoured by his successors, and even by those who were his contemporaries; for he challenged the opposition of a congregated world, by renouncing the doctrine of contagion, so soon as his reason was convinced of its absurdity, and by defying the censure of his brethren in the profession when literary truth was his object, while they yielded to popular prejudices and preconceived opinions, and thus perpetuated the existence of those opinions.

Their act of non-intercourse with Baltimore in the year 1819, will be an eternal blot upon the pages of their History, and future generations will laugh at their idle fears and groundless apprehensions, and place Philadelphian Philosophers with all their self-consequence on a level with those whose peace has been paralyzed by apprehensions of witches or ghosts, in the dark ages of former superstition.

Some have been disposed to deny that such ignorance can exist in that standard of Medi-

cal information, (as they have been pleased to denominate Philadelphia,) and attribute her ordinance of non-intercourse to motives of commercial policy. This opinion may not be altogether without foundation, yet I am not inclined to receive it as orthodox, but am willing to let them give us the motives which prompted them to action. Their own declarations announce the prevalence of a *contagious disease* in Baltimore, proving that they conceive the Yellow Fever to belong to this order. Now it is a gross and palpable falsehood that a contagious disease prevailed here, for the fact of its being confined to one district of the city and other circumstances already related, prove its non-contagious nature beyond contradiction. It is however, certain, that let either or both of the motives be admitted, the conduct of Philadelphia is marked with evidences of ignorance, hypocrisy, and inconsistency; and had Rush on quitting the combat let fall his mantle on one who could inherit his integrity, these strictures would have been anticipated by a champion of her own, and would not have called forth the feelings and emotions of an individual at a distance. His anathemas would have been hurled at the principle which was the origin of such procedure; he would have declaimed as with a voice of thunder against such gross absurdity regardless of the patronage of the wise, or the applause of the great. Truth would govern, philosophy would sustain,

and science would defend him. And although the contempt of the vulgar might be hurled at him with violence, yet it should be remembered that the opinions of some men neither benefit nor injure; neither honor nor disgrace.

The Corporation of Alexandria, from that propensity to imitation, natural to animals of every class, stimulated by the example of the *great city*, passed a similar law, requiring all vessels arriving from Baltimore, to perform quarantine, to the great annoyance of commercial interest, and to the great inconvenience of the success of those connected with such arrivals.

A fact occurred, among many others, which I deem proper to record. During the existence of the Fever at the Point, a vessel was dispatched by one of our commercial houses, with a cargo divided into parcels, destined for Alexandria, Georgetown, and Washington; this vessel sailed up the Potomac (directly passing Alexandria) to Washington and Georgetown, discharged the parts of her cargo designed for each place; after laying at the wharf some days, she passed down to Alexandria, and was there compelled to remain twelve days to perform quarantine, although no person was sick on board, and the part of the cargo remaining was made up of ordinary articles of merchandize, and in a perfectly sound condition. No person was diseased in either of the places to which she

had previously touched, and yet this tedious quarantine was sanctioned and enforced.

The Governor of Virginia proclaimed an embargo, extending throughout the state, which was attended with like inconveniences. And what is truly laughable, the little borough of Wilmington, Delaware, followed the sapient example, although it must have been known to their wise men, that a man who would send a vessel to their town for commercial purposes, would be worthy of a lunatic cell. I deprecate ridicule, in any shape, yet I cannot but indulge my risible faculties, when I contemplate this great "city," striving to emulate her "*sister city*" Philadelphia, by following her brilliant example. It produces an association of ideas, which is truly laughable. It can only be equalled by the attempt of the frog to swell to the size of the ox, and is viewed by every man of ordinary intelligence, as equally ridiculous.

## SECTION VI.

### *On Quarantine Regulations.*

THE prejudicial tendency which the supposed contagion of Yellow Fever exerts upon our commercial prosperity, has already been hinted at. Idle as is the opinion, its advocates are able and ingenious in this and in other countries. In England, where a case of Yellow Fever never occurred, the Faculty boldly assert, and attempt to defend its contagious nature. Men who never saw the disease, actuated by idle and imaginary fears, are the loudest declaimers in defence of the position. The British Physicians, without exception, agree that it is highly contagious, and this belief has established the institution which we now deprecate. Quarantine laws have been enacted, and the endless train of evils, consequent upon the existence of lazarettoes, as penalties, fines, forfeitures, fees, and ruinous delays, have been transmitted to posterity with their being. We have inherited, with the virtues of our "*mother country,*" many of her follies and errors, and it is only by progressive gradation, we can ever re-



move these hereditary evils. This gradual work has been commenced, and is partially effected. Our quarantines are so meliorated by the humane and honest exertions of our civil authorities, that in this country we do not suffer half the inconveniences or delays, required in other countries. But the practice, although gradually declining, is so grossly absurd, and so inconsistent with truth, that it ought for ever to be discontinued. This observation, however, is not intended to imply that the access to a city should be free and uninterrupted; on the contrary, I would insist on the propriety and necessity of the erection of a barrier; but let that barrier be consistent with justice and truth, and in accordance with the fact.

If a vessel arrive from a foreign port, where it is known that at the time of her departure, the disease raged with unimpeded violence, let this vessel be examined by the Health Officer, the sick, if any, removed, and if necessary, the vessel be cleansed, and then suffered to proceed to her destination. This could all be done in forty-eight hours. If, on the contrary, the vessel should be found to contain any vegetables in a state of putrefaction, or if persons have been diseased and dead on the passage, after the vessel was out at sea, then some detention should take place; but the healthy individuals on board ought to be permitted to proceed to their place of destiny. This kind of Quarantine would be consistent

with the fact, would prevent the importation of any contagious disease, more effectually than the one at present in vogue.

But for the neighbouring cities and states to pass an act of non-intercourse extending to Baltimore, because the Yellow Fever prevailed here, is indecorous and unjustifiable, for the reasons before specified. It is a species of quarantine, which must meet with the unanimous contempt of the world.

But I protest against quarantine regulations for another reason. I conceive that the practice of detaining vessels at a lazaretto, twelve to forty days in the heat of summer, without any cleansing or ventilation, is calculated to effect, what it is intended to prevent. If these vessels, thus proscribed, contain coffee and other substances liable to undergo putrefaction, they must receive injury at least by this detention; and if they are at all damaged, the mischievous effects of their want of ventilation, must be an increase of the damage. The vessel is then permitted to proceed to the centre of our cities, the hatches are removed, and the gas evolved from the hold, is so fœtid and poisonous, that whole cities have been thus infected, by the noxious vapor generated during the detention of the vessel; and if she had been suffered to come up to unload at once, upon her arrival, no mischief would have resulted, but much evil would have been avoided. This is no imaginary delusion, or idle fanaticism, not the production of a dis-

tempered brain, but the effusions of sober reason, unbiassed by prejudice. The plausibility of the statement must be evident at the first glance, to the most superficial observer. And I think it highly probable, however novel the idea, that the regulations under consideration, have been productive of the very effects, which they were intended to prevent; that they have done injury, will not be denied, that they have ever been useful, is exceedingly doubtful. In this state of things, therefore, ought not some change to be effected in the laws of Quarantines, so as to remove the objectionable features of those laws? Surely, if they were ever worthy of attention, they demand it now; the injured community call for the administration of equity and justice, the Genius of Liberty frowns with indignation on such perversion of her rights, and the fair daughters of Columbia lament the inhumanity, which continues a long protracted separation from their dearest relatives. Learning droops in despondency, and Philosophy weeps in silence, at such prostration of her corollaries. Let America then first step forward the champion of humanity, honour and truth, and by abolishing the exceptionable features of the quarantine law, prove that her character has not been misrepresented by those, who declare her to be the sworn enemy of ignorance, error, and delusion.

Such arguments as have been given, the au-

thor is well aware, will meet with persecution and censure; but in the investigation of the subject, he considers it perfectly unimportant what will meet with popular applause. Truth is his object, and in its pursuit, he views with perfect indifference the censure or applause of those, who condemn or approve without examination.

European authority has been too long respected in this country, as being the criterion of truth. We have been too much inclined to admit doctrines and opinions, because they proceeded from certain authorities, whom we had been taught to respect; rather than because of any intrinsic merit or excellence contained in them. This has been the great cause of the perpetuation of error among us. We have adopted in Politics as in Science, many of the absurdities of Great Britain; some we have discovered and removed, others still adhere to our government, notwithstanding the exertions made to eradicate them. We have not sufficiently *maintained* our independence, which is equally important as its *Declaration*. We look to them for precedents in law and gospel, instead of endeavouring to cultivate inquiry and investigation in our own citizens; and I may add, we have encouraged artists, manufacturers, and authors of foreign kingdoms, while men of equal talents have been suffered to remain unnoticed and unknown, because they are of domestic growth. Our own writers of merit are neglected and

forgotten, while British authors are read with avidity, and French scribblers sought after with ardour and zeal. Foreign writers have not been idle spectators of this thirst for foreign productions, and they have not forgotten to sow the seeds of discord and confusion among our political ranks, and have even attacked with unhallowed hands, the sacred system of Christianity itself.

We should be exceedingly sceptical in matters of opinion, and admit the sentiments of no writer, whether foreign or domestic, without strict scrutiny and cautious examination; and on the other hand, we should condemn no production, until we search into its merits, and examine its claims to respect, whether it be of British, French, or American origin. So far as the author proceeds on firm ground, we may venture to follow him with safety, but when he steps on tottering and unstable earth, we should suffer him to walk alone, and refuse him our confidence and support. Such only is the respect I bestow, and such alone I solicit.

In my strictures on Quarantine regulations, I wish to be distinctly understood, as being decidedly favourable to their existence, with certain modifications. While we are careful to avoid the extreme of extending free intercourse and dangerous licentiousness, let us also guard against unnecessary barriers to that intercourse. We should steer between the Scylla of licentiousness, and the Cha-

rybdis of despotism, retaining the beneficial parts of the law on this subject, while we reject such as are useless and hurtful.

That the present mode of quarantine in the port of Baltimore, is a peculiar grievance, I am not prepared to assert; for in our city the light of science has, by its radiant beams, illumined the dark abodes of legal superstition, and the result has been, that vessels are only detained a few hours at the lazaretto, unless there be evidently some noxious cause on board, such as putrid hides, coffee, or other substances in a state of decomposition. But in some of the other cities of the Union, the commercial interests are seriously injured; for the law extends in many cases to thirty or forty days. Instance the act of non-intercourse, passed by Philadelphia, during the late visitation of Baltimore by a distressing calamity, and the proclamation of the governor of Virginia, the mayor of Alexandria, and the authorities of Wilmington, &c. during the same period. These are facts to which frequent reference has been made in this work, because they are facts which cannot be too severely censured, nor too energetically deprecated. They go to show the irremediable injury to social enjoyment and familiar intercourse, which the same principle would effect if pursued and practised. It is a cause, therefore, in which no tongue should be silent, no pen idle, nor no individual unconcerned. The cause of science, of philoso-

phy, of humanity, of truth, all are interested in the extermination of this relic of ignorance and superstition. I call upon all governors and legislators, all teachers of philosophy, all votaries of Science, all friends of truth, to unite in the destruction of this bane of commercial prosperity, this common enemy of liberty and philosophy.

Life is only to be valued, as it is usefully employed; let us, therefore, contribute to the advancement of the interests and happiness of our country, by declaiming against the remains of folly, which adhere to our civil policy, and uniting in the work of sacrificing prejudice and superstition, at the shrine of philosophical truth. Then shall we have lived to purpose, and when we die, the world will be the better of us, that we have lived in it; a termination which every honest man must ardently desire. Then shall we be at least useful, if not honoured; and have our own conscious approbation, although we may receive the censure of a cruel world.

These then are the considerations which urge me to the reflections I have thrown out on this subject, and although they may be thought censorious at this period, yet the time will come, when Quarantine Regulations will be meliorated and modified, until scarcely a trace of their former lineaments will be perceptible. Yes, without professing to be endowed with a prophetic spirit, I may assert, that the time is at hand, when the

host of sequela consequent upon those regulations, as lazarettos, fines, forfeitures, fees, and ruinous delays, will be so totally destroyed, that not a vestige will be left behind. Liberty will supplant tyranny and oppression, light shall disperse darkness, Science shall dissipate the mists of error, and Philosophy shall exterminate ignorance and superstition for ever. This country, yet in its infancy, will be the criterion of philosophical truth, and the theatre of successful scientific research. Europe shall lose the epithet of being the "mother of Philosophy," Science shall flourish under the wings of our Eagle with unsullied splendor, and we shall yet soar above all French, above all British fame.





**APPENDIX,**  
COMPRISING  
AN ACCOUNT OF THE SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT  
OF THE  
**LATE EPIDEMIC,**  
AS FOUND SUCCESSFUL  
IN THE HANDS OF THE MOST DISTINGUISHED  
**MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSION.**  
ALSO,  
SOME REMARKS ON THE TREATMENT  
PURSUED IN THE  
**BALTIMORE HOSPITAL,**  
DURING ITS PREVALENCE,  
AS CONTRASTED WITH THE MODE ADOPTED IN THE  
CITY.

APPENDIX

TABLE B. PHASES

NUMBERS OF THE PROPOSITIONS

The following table shows the numbers of the propositions in the different phases of the investigation. The numbers are given in the order in which they were first mentioned in the text. The numbers in parentheses are those which were first mentioned in the text but which were not included in the final list of propositions. The numbers in brackets are those which were first mentioned in the text but which were not included in the final list of propositions. The numbers in italics are those which were first mentioned in the text but which were not included in the final list of propositions.

## APPENDIX.

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**T**HAT the Epidemic under consideration, is definitely the Yellow Fever, will not be doubted, when I shall have described the symptoms as they appeared in the generality of cases. Although some persons have asserted, that the only sure mark of distinction between Bilious Remittent Fever, and the Yellow Fever, is the fatal termination of the latter; yet the most superficial observer must protest against such sentiments, when he shall have been informed, that cases of Bilious Fever frequently prove fatal, without any symptoms of Yellow Fever whatever, and, *vice versa*, many cases pronounced by these same individuals to be genuine cases, and irrecoverable, were by the providential inter-

ference of other physicians, and different treatment, perfectly cured. Certain it is, that when men assume the prerogative of being the sole individuals capable of deciding on the nature of diseases, and bring themselves thoroughly to believe this enthusiastic delusion, that they presumptuously assert, whatever they imagine to be correct, because they conceive *their* judgment, and *their* decision to be infallible. Hence, during the prevalence of the recent Epidemic, men were found, who verily believed that they alone were capable of designating the line of demarkation between what they were pleased to term, high Bilious Fever and Yellow Fever, and therefore asserted that not one fourth of the cases of Yellow Fever reported as such, were deserving of that appellation, although they were reporting them by dozens. Some had the temerity to inform the Health Office and the public, that no case of Yellow Fever existed in the City at a period when 8 to 10 Deaths were daily reported as resulting from its agency. Some even surpassed this extreme, and declared in official communications that intemperate men, and persons of peculiar habits of body were obnoxious to a disease *exactly resembling Yellow Fever*, in all its symptoms, and hence argued the probability of errors. They however do not inform us by what means they were enabled to make the discovery, nor what difference can be delineated between two diseases which are *exactly alike*.

Their powers of vision are so peculiarly sensible, that they behold with precision and accuracy, what persons of ordinary optics cannot see even with artificial aid. Hence they come not under the consideration of those who inhabit this inferior clod; we shall therefore resign these sentiments with their authors to the public, without further remark.

To attempt an account of the symptoms and treatment of this calamity is a task of no ordinary magnitude, seeing that it is a subject upon which there are a variety of opinions, and

“When Doctors differ, who shall decide.”

Waiving these apparent obstacles, I shall proceed to the description of the symptoms, as they generally appeared, noticing however those peculiarities with which I am acquainted, which are of peculiar import.

#### 1. *Symptoms.*

The manner of attack varied in different individuals, although in general they were seized with a chill, of more or less violence, accompanied by a pain in the head, back and limbs. I am inclined to believe that the chill was a more universal symptom in this, than in any similar Epidemic, from the written information which has been given to the world, although it was not always an attendant. This state of things continuing for an hour or more, the pulse being all this time slow, and retiring

from pressure, it was usually followed by a generally diffused heat, as in other fevers, but the temperature was excessive; the eyes now became red and fiery, the countenance fierce and tumid, the skin dry and parched, the pulse tense and quick, but not much increased in frequency, (in the general not more than eighty in the minute, during the first paroxysm,) the secretion from the kidneys was usually thick, brown and deposited sediment, if indeed any secretion took place, for in many cases there was a total suppression of all the secretions, from the first moment of disease. The tongue did not give so distinct marks of disease as might be expected, although the stomach and primæ viæ were sometimes very much interested. An obstinate constipation of the bowels was the most uniform symptom, and in some instances this could not be removed by any means, and the patients fell victims in consequence. In this as in other similar Epidemics, it was found exceedingly difficult to produce any moisture on the surface, which could at all indicate the termination of the paroxysm, the vessels of the skin appearing to be constricted so violently, that no perspiration could be excited. The pain in the stomach was in some cases excessive from the first, but in general it was not much complained of, until the third day; and the same observation will apply to the pain in the back. If the remedies which had been applied, had not been successful in producing alvine evacu-

ations, the pain in the back was the most unpleasant symptom. If, however, the bowels were rendered soluble, the pain in the back was at once alleviated or removed. The stomach was not so much affected in this as in former Epidemics; with this solitary exception, it exactly resembled the fever of 1793—98, &c. as described by Rush and others, and was characterized by symptoms equally malignant. The symptoms as described having appeared on the first day, were usually meliorated on the second day, but the third day all the symptoms returned with redoubled violence, and many died on this day who had been pronounced convalescent on the day preceding. In most cases the black vomit made its appearance on the third day, and many died with this evacuation with only fifty or sixty hours illness. But although it has been thought by some that when this evacuation took place, recovery was impossible, yet I am happy to have it in my power to say, from the information given me by several medical gentlemen and from my own observation, that not more than one out of five died who had the *black vomit*. This should teach us the impropriety of deserting a patient in any disease, while life remains. Indeed, it is a doctrine fraught with dangerous consequences, to pronounce any disease incurable, or any patient irrecoverable, because of any peculiar symptom or appearance, however malignant or severe. The black vomit in Yellow Fever is a



symptom which is peculiarly alarming, yet so many instances have occurred of recovery, after it had appeared in its most violent condition, that we should hence learn not to be too hasty in our decision upon the mortality of the disease, even after this evacuation. But to proceed, the alvine evacuations were black and foetid in every case, resembling tar in appearance and consistence. This symptom, however, attended all the ordinary bilious remittent fevers of the season, although they had no symptom of malignancy whatever. The skin was hot and dry, tongue black or brown, breath foetid, and a peculiar frantic appearance of the eye was generally attendant. Delirium but seldom occurred until the third day, and it usually was the forerunner of death. In a few instances, however, the delirium came on with the disease in the first paroxysm, and these cases proved fatal from inflammation of the brain.

The apparent cessation of the symptoms on the second day above alluded to, was a circumstance which caused much mischief. Many persons, when taken with the pain in the head, back, limbs, &c. declined applying for medical aid at once; and on the second day, finding themselves somewhat better, imputed the apparent change to their domestic remedies, and resolved to continue them. The third day, however, would unfold the mystery, the physician would be called, and in many instances, only called to witness the departure of their

lives. But in every instance, when the physician was called early in the first paroxysm, and no peculiar want of firmness of original stamina in the constitution, the chance of recovery was great, insomuch that at a meeting of the physicians of the City and Point, held in the midst of the prevalence of the fever, it was given as an unanimous opinion, and publicly announced, that the Epidemic was perfectly under the dominion of Medicine, if taken in its commencement. It is therefore important to inquire what was the successful mode of treatment, which I shall notice as briefly as is consistent with perspicuity.

## 2. *Treatment.*

On this head of my subject, it behoves me to speak with modest diffidence, as it is no easy task to decide on a subject about which "doctors differ." I have, however, obtained from a number of the most distinguished practitioners, the mode of practice used by them with success. Two of these gentlemen attended above 150 patients each; of course, their opportunities of information were considerable. Their mode of treatment having been similar to that adopted by myself, I shall not make reference to my own, since the limited number\* of which I had the management, and my obscure standing in the profession, would not

\* About forty.

warrant a comparison between my observation and theirs. I shall therefore state the amount of the information communicated to me by their polite attention.

The method of treatment, varied according to the period at which the physician was called. The remedies which were appropriate and successful in the first paroxysm, if not applied during its continuance, would be hurtful, or even fatal, at a later period of the disease.

1. *Bleeding*. This was one of the most important remedies in almost every case, although there are solitary exceptions, in which it was inadmissible, arising generally from some peculiarity in the constitution, rather than from any variation in the disease. Towards the middle and close of the progress of the Epidemic, the lancet was more indispensable than in the former part of its progress, although in most cases from the first, it was an important remedy. If called during the first paroxysm, it was the invariable practice to abstract blood without regard to quantity; only having reference to the state of the arterial action, and the effect produced while the blood was flowing. From two to four pounds has been the amount of the first bleeding in the generality of cases; but it has been customary to repeat the evacuation in a few hours, whenever relief was not obtained by the first bleeding. In many instances, where the patient, on first feeling the approaching symptoms of disease, called on the physician, while it was

only in a forming state this remedy has been instantaneous in its effect. From a state of suffering the most excruciating, the patient has been brought into a calm and tranquil condition, the skin has become moist, and he has, in many cases, sunk into a placid sleep, immediately after a large bleeding, and from this period been perfectly convalescent. When, however, the disease was established, this remedy was not so successful, but required frequent repetition, and the co-operation of other means, hereafter to be enumerated.

The *modus operandi* of Bleeding, admits of a variety of conjectures; but that which I conceive to be the most plausible is, that it acts by reducing the system from a state of *indirect debility* (which is the first effect of the cause) to a state of *direct debility*, and retaining the system in this debilitated condition until the expulsion of the morbid agent can be effected by the other collateral adjuvants which remain to be detailed. For, as long as the system is retained in this state of direct debility, so long it will not admit of a fever being excited, and no mischief can result from weakening our patient, since we need not fear that he will die from direct debility. But although bleeding has been stated as a primary, yet it is not the only remedy, for the patient, although always benefited, yet he is not altogether relieved by this evacuation in every case. The skin continues parched and collapsed; the tongue and *primæ viæ* exhibit threatening ap-

pearances; the bowels are still obstinately constipated; and in short, the whole system evidences the presence of some morbid agent.—It was therefore found necessary to combine with these means, some others which would be contributory to the same effect. And for this purpose, almost every physician possessed and used prescriptions of his own, differing in most cases only in quantity and degree of activity.

*Calomel.* This, as an internal remedy, was found of infinite importance in every case, and indeed may be considered as indispensable, especially in the more violent cases. It is the remedy which was principally relied on after venæsection, and in almost every case successful, where it was given in proper doses, and under suitable circumstances. The doses of Calomel were generally of extraordinary extent, and indeed the reason this remedy has sometimes fallen into disrepute, is most probably, because it is not generally given in quantities sufficiently large, I mean in the treatment of disease in general. The evil tendency which it has been supposed large doses of Calomel would excite, is altogether imaginary, as has been proved in the treatment of this Epidemic. The dose adopted by most of the practitioners, was ten grains every two or four hours, as the urgency of the symptoms required, and this continued without intermission, until the patient was relieved, or ptyalism was effected. And although many were cured

before the gums were affected, yet in those instances which required the continued exhibition of the medicine until this effect was produced, the ptyalism and the convalescence were frequently, and I may say generally simultaneous; for few, very few indeed, died after the salivation was established. These few fell victims to hemorrhage from the gums, a termination which only proves that the primary remedy, *bleeding*, had been neglected, for when the lancet was used freely in the first instance, and repeated according to circumstances, no case was afterwards affected with hemorrhage. And indeed, it may be laid down as an incontrovertible position, that when a patient is sufficiently bled in the commencement of the disease, neither hemorrhage nor mortification ever did, or ever can occur in its conclusion. But when we are deficient in the operations of art, nature sometimes spontaneously resorts to this mode of relieving herself, of what we should have relieved her by artificial means, thus attempting to compensate for our mismanagement.

A case in proof of these observations occurred during our Epidemic, which is too remarkable to be overlooked. A man named *Kensler*, was attacked with the disease, and his family, finding so many dying under medical treatment, and not contrasting these with the number cured, refused to call in a physician at first. But from the violence of the disease on the third day, his friends sent for a

practitioner, who, finding that the bleeding point had passed by unimproved, very correctly concluded, that the mercurial treatment must be his chief resource. This was pursued by the dose of Calomel above mentioned regularly repeated, and in a short time, the Ptyalism was produced. But no sooner had the salivation become free, than a hemorrhage of great violence ensued, which occasioned very great alarm, and threatened to terminate his life; but by very active and energetic practice, he was saved. This case is related, not from any intrinsic peculiarity it possesses, but as proof in favor of the declaration that hemorrhage is the consequence of neglect of the lancet, and not of the violence of the Ptyalism. This, therefore, can be no objection to the mercurial practice, although it has been used as such, since when bleeding is premised, no unpleasant effect is the consequence of the administration of the mercury.

It has been contended that the salivation is not essential to the cure, and I shall not assert that the discharge of saliva is by any means important, abstractly; but I hold it to be the only evidence that the medicine has produced its full effect on the system, and therefore I should not be satisfied without this evidence, when the salvation of my patient is suspended on a dial's point, as in violent cases of this Epidemic.

In the use of Calomel, some have far exceeded the dose I have mentioned; instead of

10 grains they have doubled the quantity, and given this extensive dose every two hours, for a day or more, without any unpleasant consequences, and with a beneficial result. And I have known three physicians, who extended the dose to a drachm, as a desperate effort, and succeeded in curing their patients. I would by no means, however, insinuate that this precedent should be followed, except when in the judgment of a skilful practitioner it might be considered safe; but I relate these facts to annul the idea, that large doses of mercury are dangerous in their effects. There are numbers who have survived attacks of this Epidemic, who are now in a state of uncontaminated health, who in a few days took 300 grains of Calomel, besides having externally applied the strongest mercurial ointment all over the surface of their bodies.

In the use of Calomel, no definite limits ought to be fixed to the quantity which may be necessary, for in this as in the quantum of blood to be drawn, every practitioner must be guided by his own judgment, the peculiarity of the constitution and the violence of the disease. But let him remember always, that violent diseases require violent remedies; and although it would be absurd to expend the "strength of a Sampson in the destruction of a fly," yet when great morbid efforts are evolved, he should meet them with proportionate energy and effect; an injunction, which how-



ever plausible and self-evident, is not sufficiently attended to in the treatment of disease.

From what has been said, it is plain that Bleeding and Calomel are the principal remedies which have been successfully adopted. But they are not the only means used, but are aided by Emetics and Aperients, as Magnesia, Oleum Ricini, Sulphas Sodæ, Enemas, &c. as well as Blisters, which last remedies were in many cases of infinite importance. All these will be considered in proper order.

*Emetics.* These were only useful in the incipient stage of the disease. A very common prescription during the first few hours of the disease, was the following:

*R. Submur. Hydrarg. grs. 20.*

*Tart. Antim. grs. 3.*

dissolved in warm water, and taken all at once, followed by 10 grain doses of Calomel, repeated at intervals of four hours. This may be said to have been the first prescription most generally in use, after copious venæsection. After the operation of the Emetic, which took place generally in a few minutes after its administration, it was common to observe the skin to become moist, and a termination of the paroxysm usually succeeded, provided the Calomel was successful in rendering the bowels soluble. A period was put to the disease, in some mild cases, by this course of procedure, without any farther remedy. But even when the paroxysm returned, it was much diminished in violence, and the disease rendered

manageable. Indeed, an Emetic sometimes established a crisis at once, when given in the incipient state of the disease, but it was not found useful in any other stage.

*Cathartics.* As has already been hinted, the constipation of the bowels was the most uniform and the most troublesome symptom of the disease. In some few instances it could not be removed by any means whatever, and the patients speedily fell victims in consequence. When the Calomel failed to operate, which it sometimes did, even when given in large doses; it was customary to assist it by the frequent exhibition of Calcined Magnesia, Castor Oil, the Neutral Salts, and the administration of Enemas, composed of some active aperient ingredients. But these remedies were only used as accessory to the Calomel, not relying by any means on their efficacy in curing the disease. In an eastern city, an account of the treatment there pursued was published by a learned professor, and this account was republished in Baltimore during the prevalence of the Epidemic. But I believe no one was found, possessing sufficient temerity to depend upon the same remedies in our calamity. He recommended Magnesia, Neutral Salts, &c. as primary remedies, and I am bold in the assertion, that if these remedies were successful in that city, their Epidemic and ours must have been essentially, and diametrically different; for had we attempted to rely upon such inefficient practice here, our cases would have

been universally *cured* by being delivered from a world of trouble, and that in many instances with only a few hours illness.—And from the statements published in said city, it would appear that this was the mode by which every patient was cured, for there were but few, very few cases of Yellow Fever there reported, but were announced in a few days afterwards as *interred*. But to return, in addition to these remedies already detailed, another class now to be noticed have been found exceedingly useful.

*Blisters.* After sufficient depletion had been effected, by the prescriptions already enumerated, if pain in the head, back, or epigastric region continued, it was found necessary to use blisters of considerable extent. These were applied to the stomach, back of the neck or extremities, according to the caprice of the practitioner, although it was a matter of perfect indifference as to the locality of the application, so that the effect was produced. They were also eminently useful in those cases where the disease assumed a low typhoid character, and stimulation was requisite, an occurrence by no means unfrequent.

*Diet.* With respect to Diet, more caution was requisite in this disease than perhaps in any other, for it was necessary in most cases to forbid any kind of food whatever, at least until the depletion was pursued to sufficient extent; and indeed until the disease was totally conquered, no kind of food could be ta-

ken without danger. Many who were advised of the danger of taking food, even when convalescent, violated their directions, and were thrown into tedious and dangerous relapses by this imprudent act, while others forfeited their lives from the same cause.

*Drinks.* These were usually administered cold, and in truth, all warm drinks were found hurtful. All kinds of spirituous liquors, wine, beer, and other stimulating drinks were forbidden, except in the typhoid condition into which the disease sometimes sunk, and even here they required great caution in their use. A single glass of wine was found to produce delirium and death, when given improperly by the advice of an empiric. Molasses and water was the drink most in use, although every physician prescribed drinks according to his own discretion.

It remains now to draw a comparison between the treatment pursued in the Baltimore Hospital during the same period, and our treatment in the City; as this has been used by way of argument against the course of depletion pursued successfully in the city, and has prejudiced the minds of some against the latter mode of management. It was found necessary in the Hospital to prescribe stimuli of the most powerful character. Wine and Brandy were constantly in use, and where success was obtained, it was, with few exceptions, under this course of treatment. This fact to a superficial observer might be deemed

paradoxical, but upon careful examination, the reasons why their treatment was so different from that laid down in this work, will become apparent. The patients were seldom received into the Institution until the third day; many not until the 5th, 7th, and even 9th day of the disease; of course they were in a very different condition from those to whom immediate attention was administered, after their attack. In several instances wherein the patient was received at an early period, the same practice was pursued in the Hospital as in the City, and with the same result.

Having briefly comprised in this Appendix, all that I deem important in the treatment of the Epidemic, I will now only add, that there is no credit of originality in the mode adopted belonging to us. This treatment was pursued with equal effect in Philadelphia in former Epidemics, by a gentleman of high standing, to whom some are of opinion the credit of originality properly belongs. He used his lancet with equal decision, and administered Calomel with equal effect. But whether this mode of treatment was first adopted and pursued by him, is a question somewhat dubious, since Dr. Potter, the ingenious professor of the Theory and Practice of medicine in the University of Maryland, certainly has, in a recent publication,\* given some reasons to believe that he is the author of this plan of man-

\* Memoir on Contagion.

agement, and indeed that he also was one of the first individuals, who protested against the contagion of Yellow Fever. But whether Rush is really the sole author of this plan of treatment or not, is unimportant, if decided. It is certain, that from his superior opportunities, he tested the success of the plan more effectually than has been or could be done by any other member of the profession. And although his name has been the theme of slander and abuse, from those very men who owe to him every medical idea they possess, yet it shall shine with unsullied lustre and brilliancy on the page of Time. The scroll of Fame shall transmit the name of RUSH to after ages in imperishable characters, while his revilers shall be entombed in the shades of night. Their names and writings shall cease to exist, except on the dark book of oblivion, while the name of RUSH shall be proclaimed from generation to generation as another name for SCIENCE itself. He was the common enemy of error and of vice. Regardless of the opinions of a censorious world, he pursued an undeviating course of moral rectitude, and although the shafts of envy, the teeth of malice, and the jaws of hatred, were all conspired for his destruction, yet like the American Eagle soaring above the roaring Lion, and the crowing Cock, he soars above their malicious conspiracy, and sits upon the imperishable monument of his country's praise. He did honor to his profession; to philosophy; to Science; to his coun-

try; to humanity; and to God. His name shall live in the recollection of the profession, while stars their courses move; and when earth shall expire amidst surrounding flames, he shall rise triumphant above the fiery void, and reap an eternal reward.

THE END.

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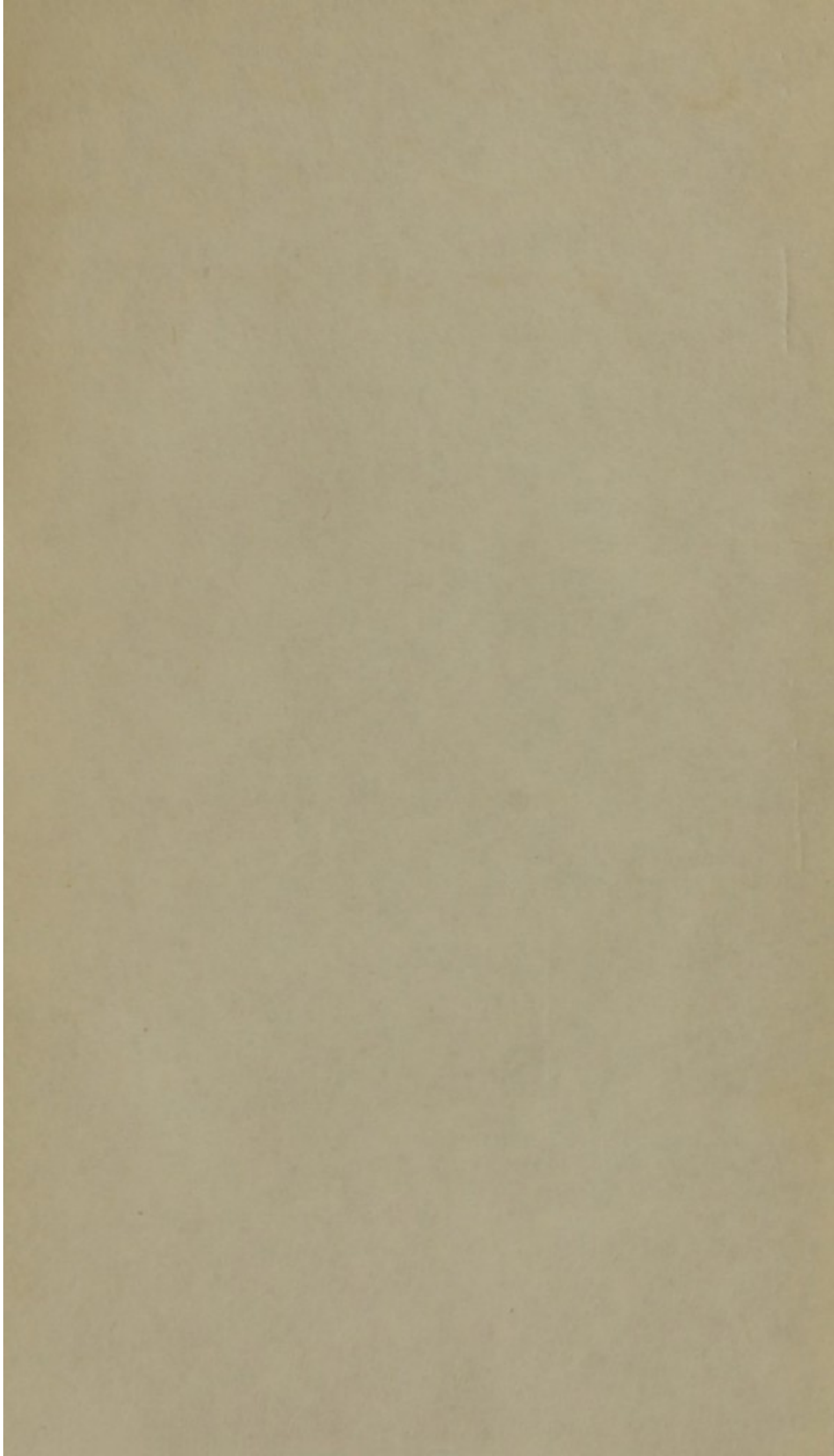
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