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ADDITIONAL FACTS
AND
OBSERVATIONS
RELATIVE TO THE
NATURE AND ORIGIN
OF THE
Pestilential Fever.

BY THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF
PHILADELPHIA.

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ADDITIONAL FACTS, &c.

ON the re-appearance of the pestilential fever in this city in 1793, after an interval of more than thirty years, we were struck with its mortality and contagious nature, as well as with the train of symptoms, so widely different from any thing we had been accustomed to. These considerations naturally produced a supposition of its foreign origin; and in the course of our inquiries on the subject, we were led to make the following conclusion, in reply to the requisition of the governor of the commonwealth on the origin of the disease.

“ No instance has ever occurred, of the disease
“ called the Yellow Fever, being generated in this
“ city, or in any other part of this state, as far as we
B know;

“ know ; but there have been frequent instances of
 “ its having been imported, not only into this, but
 “ into other parts of North America, and pre-
 “ vailing there for a certain period of time ; and
 “ from the rise, progress and nature of the malignant
 “ fever, which began to prevail here about the be-
 “ ginning of last August, and extended itself gradu-
 “ ally over a great part of the city, we are of opi-
 “ nion, that this disease was imported into Philadel-
 “ phia by some of the vessels which arrived in the
 “ port after the middle of July. This opinion we
 “ are further confirmed in by the various accounts
 “ we have received from the best authorities we
 “ could procure on the subject.”

Subsequent events and researches have confirmed
 these opinions ; and in 1798, when the facility of
 producing sufficient proofs was abundant, we pub-
 lished an account of the nature and origin of the
 pestilential fever, accompanied with such facts to
 prove its introduction to this city from the West
 Indies, as to us appeared incontrovertible. The
 mode of introduction and of the spreading of this
 disease, beginning as from a point, and gradually
 extending itself more or less throughout the city, as
 well as the daily instances of its communication which
 occurred, had also, as we supposed, afforded evi-
 dence,

dence, sufficiently convictive, of its contagious nature.

In order, however, to throw more light on the subject, we conceive it may be useful to publish the opinions and observations of several respectable characters, physicians and others, concerning the sentiments long since prevalent in this country, as well as some interesting facts, which had come to their knowledge respecting the foreign origin of the disease.

The importation and contagious nature of this Fever appear to be so closely connected, that in addition to what has been repeatedly published on this head, we have selected a few cases, which we suppose must very clearly prove the contagion of the pestilential fever, more particularly during the months of July, August, September, and October.

A desire to be useful to our country by calling the public attention to these important points, so as to prevent any relaxation in quarantine laws, as well as to disseminate truth generally for the good of others, has been our motive for making a further publication at this time ; for we think there is too much reason to fear that the partial exemption from these diseases, of latter years, may have a tendency to produce a dangerous security amongst us.

Letter

Letter from James Pemberton, Esq. to Doctor Caspar Wistar, junr.

ESTEEMED FRIEND,

Being desirous to aid thy investigation of the origin, progress, &c. of the disease which now again afflicts the inhabitants of this city, I hope my recollection of facts and opinions, may contribute to assist thy endeavours to obviate the impressions which the speculation of some late writers on the subject may have occasioned; tending to degrade the salubrity of our climate, both at home, and in foreign parts; the injurious effects of which are too obvious to enumerate.

Since thy inquiries on this subject, I have been led to recollect what I have heard and known, of the several periods of time wherein a similar, if not the same kind of fever, has, through the permission of Divine Providence, pervaded our city.

I recollect to have heard my father often rehearse what he knew himself of the introduction of the distemper;* that it was imported in a ship (or other sea vessel) from the island of Barbadoes, whose cargo consisted partly of cotton in bags, which were land-

cd

* In 1699.

ed at a wharf between Market-street and the draw-bridge, and there stored for sale. He mentioned also the name of the owner or consignee, (which is lost to my memory). The disorder, however, made its first appearance in his family, and the neighbourhood, and thence gradually spread through the city, attended with great mortality; fully equal, or exceeding any that has occurred in the same space of time, comparing the then infant state of the city, with its population in 1793, or since that period. During this calamity my father was about 15 years of age, and apprentice with Samuel Carpenter, one of the principal traders of that day; he was well capable of making his remarks on occurrences, and afterwards of remembering them, and knew it to be the invariable judgment of the physicians, and other citizens, that the disease was introduced among them in the manner related above, attributing it to no other visible cause.

From the time of this calamity until after the year 1740, I do not recollect to have read any account, or heard any talk of an epidemic fever prevailing in our city, and my memory recurs as far back as to some transactions in the years 1728 and 1729, though not very material; but I well remember the prevalence of the small-pox in the years 1730 and 1731, with great virulence, and that about 1733
inoculation

inoculation was introduced, which I think Dr. Chew was earnest to promote, and that it occasioned much conversation, and great opposition.

In the year 1739, a military expedition, which proved unsuccessful, was promoted by Great Britain against some of the Spanish West-India possessions, particularly *Carthagena*; for which troops were raised in Pennsylvania, and a communication, before utterly restrained, was opened with our city: and on return of the ships and people employed in that business, a new species of fever was introduced, but not so prevalent as to occasion much alarm, nor was the city in that manner remarkably affected until the year 1744, when a disease appeared with unusual symptoms, and proved mortal to a considerable number of its inhabitants, of whom divers were respectable characters, and was distinguished by the name of *Yellow Fever*, and known to be imported from some of the West-India islands.

In the autumn of 1747 a malignant fever was introduced, and generally believed to be by the means above mentioned, which, although it was mostly confined within the limits of the southern parts of the city, below the draw-bridge, and at lodging houses for sailors, and in the neighbourhood of the dock,

dock, which was then uncovered, some respectable citizens were seized and carried off by it, of which number was Samuel Powel, an eminent merchant, who resided in that part.

A similar fever visited us in the year 1760, which was not long in duration, nor extensive in its progress; but in 1762 the same kind of disease again appeared, with a greater degree of malignity, attended with such symptoms as proved superior to the skill of our most experienced physicians; which excited the particular attention and sollicitude of my neighbour, Dr. Thomas Bond, to obtain the best information he could of the nature, origin and progress of the disease of 1699, by inquiries of the most ancient inhabitants; in which he so far succeeded to his satisfaction, as to commit his intelligence to writing, with a view to form a narrative thereof, including the observations that had occurred in the course of his own practice, on the several malignant disorders attending this city since that period.

Having had the opportunity of knowing the state of our city in respect to the prevailing diseases from the year 1740, I am confirmed in my opinion, that the malignant and infectious fevers afflicting the inhabitants at various times, have been introduced
from

from foreign parts, and that this was the invariable judgment of my fellow citizens, physicians and others, which I never heard called in question until since the year 1793, when a contrary doctrine was advanced, which I think is as difficult to support by facts, as that the plague which distressed the citizens of London in the year 1665 was a native of the British climate; or that the fever which raged among the soldiery composing the flying camp, as it was called, in 1776 and 1777, and carried off near three thousand of them after their return to this city, without infecting the inhabitants, originated within its boundaries.

If these cursory hints avail in any respect to promote thy views, they will answer my intention of conveying them to thy inspection.

I am thy respectful friend,

JAMES PEMBERTON.

12th, 10mo. 1802.

Letter from Thomas Willing, Esq. to Doctor Samuel P. Griffitts.

On my return from England in May 1749, I often heard conversation on the subject of the Yellow Fever

Fever

Fever which had prevailed in 1747, near the draw-bridge, so called at that time, in Front-street. My father and mother often lamented the death of their particular friend, Thomas Hatton, biscuit-baker, who had lived in Front-street, very near the bridge.

They told me that the fever had been brought from Barbadoes, in the following manner.

Mr. S. Powel who lived on the east side of Plum or Water-street, being part of his wharf estate, had sent a young man as his supercargo to Barbadoes, where he died of the Yellow Fever.—that his clothing and bedding had been put in a chest, and sent back many months afterwards, at the request of the lad's friends, who lived at North Wales—that the young man's father, mother and aunt came to Mr. Powel's for the chest one day, whilst Mr. Hatton was drinking a glass of wine with Mr. Powel; who calling his cooper to come and open the chest, that the parties might see what it contained, asked Mr. Hatton to go over the alley with him to the store where the chest lay—that the chest was opened and the articles looked over, in the presence of Mr. Powel, Mr. Hatton, the three persons from North Wales, the cooper and a boy of Mr. Powel's; who all of them sickened and died of

a Yellow Fever, within a few days—that Andrew Hamilton, brother of our late Governor Hamilton, with about forty others of those in the neighbourhood of the bridge, had died of the same fever, which was confined in its ravages to that part of the city—I think altogether—at least I do not recollect to have heard otherwise.

THOMAS WILLING.

Philadelphia, July 21st. 1802.

In 1762 a ship from the West Indies came to the Sugar-house wharf, below South-street; three men were landed from her, and died of a contagious fever in the neighbourhood, where about sixty others also died of the same fever, as it was believed at the time.

T. W.

SIR,

The foregoing is the memorandum which you asked me this morning to make out for you. I have also mentioned the occurrence of malignant fever in Philadelphia, at such other periods as my memory enables me to recollect.

I am, Sir,

Your very respectful friend,

THOMAS WILLING.

Dr. Samuel Griffitts, Front-street.

Letter

Letter from Benjamin Chew, Esq. to Dr. Wistar.

DEAR SIR,

ALL that I can say with certainty respecting the prevalence of the Yellow Fever in this city will be comprized within a narrow compass. I am a native of the present state of Maryland, and removed with my parents to this city when I was between eight and nine years of age.

About the year 1737 I removed into a neighbouring state with my father and his family, and did not take up my permanent residence again in this city until the year 1754. The intermediate time was spent partly in another state, and partly in England, whither I went to finish my studies in the profession of the law. After my return to America, in the year 1747, business calling me to Philadelphia, I found the inhabitants greatly alarmed by a contagious disorder which raged there, called the Yellow Fever; which was the first knowledge I had of any such disease. It had then been fatal to many persons, particularly to Andrew Hamilton, Samuel Powel, jun. Thomas Hatton, and others.

The

The subject then engrossing the conversation in all companies, I well remember it was the universal opinion, that the disease was imported in a vessel from some part of the West Indies, and was communicated by the clothing contained in the chest of a person who died of the disease in the West Indies, and that the person or persons who were present at the opening of the said chest, were the first who were taken with the Yellow Fever; and to some or all of them it had proved fatal. I also perfectly remember, that Doctor Thomas Bond and Phineas Bond, Dr. Graham and Dr. Cadwalader, with whom I was particularly acquainted, were all of them of opinion, that it was imported in the manner above stated: and until the year 1793, I do not recollect to have ever heard it doubted, whether the Yellow Fever, at the different times it had heretofore made its appearance in this city, was imported, or had originated here.

I am Sir, with great respect,

Your very humble servant,

BENJAMIN CHEW.

Philadelphia, }
February 11th, 1805. }

DR. WISTAR.

Communication

Communication from Dr. Charlton, President of the Medical Society of the state of New York, to Dr. David Hosack.

New York, September 9th, 1803.

DEAR SIR,

IN answer to your queries : I have practiced physic in this city since the year 1762. The fevers that have usually occurred in summer and autumn, during that period, were intermittent, bilious remittent, and slow nervous ; of late denominated typhus fevers.

I never saw a case of Yellow Fever, in the course of my practice, before the year 1793. I resided on Long-Island five years of the war, during which time, I never heard from my medical friends in the city, of any case of Yellow Fever having occurred ; nor after my return to it in 1781, did I ever meet with any instance of it (before the period above-mentioned) although the city was, during the war, more crowded, and far more filthy than ever it was at any other time.

I have always considered the Yellow Fever as a species of disease not indigenous to our climate, but
of

of imported origin with us: and here it may be necessary to remark, that in the year 1795, in consequence of an application from the mayor of the city to the medical society of the state of New York, of which I had the honour of being president, a committee of that body were directed to consider of, and report upon the nature and origin of that fever, which prevailed at the time. The report of the committee was in favour of its domestic origin, and was adopted by the society; and in my official capacity, I affixed my signature to it, though contrary to my own opinion.

Among the distinguishing characteristics of this disease, I consider the total absence of remission for the first two or three days, after which it frequently happens that there will be a regular, slow pulse, apparently free from febrile action, insomuch that the inexperienced are flattered with a prospect of the favourable termination of the disease, while the insidious foe is secretly undermining the fabric, as a few hours fatally evince, by an aggravation of all the symptoms. Another mark of distinction, is the dusky hue the surface acquires, instead of the bright orange colour it has in the bilious remittent: the appearance of the tongue and fauces, which are frequently (comparatively) clean to the last, is a peculiarity of this species of fever. I also think that
delirium

delirium does not supervene so early, as in the jail, hospital, or ship-fever.*

I never met with a case of Yellow Fever in the country, but which could be clearly traced to have been derived by infection from the city.

I am, with great regard,

Yours, &c.

JOHN CHARLTON.

Dr. D. Hofack.

Communication from Doctor Samuel Bard, to Doctor David Hofack.

In answer to your inquiries: I began to practice medicine in New York, in the year 1766.—Remitting fevers have since that time prevailed more or less every fall. They frequently were attended with bilious discharges, and a yellow skin, and in proportion as these symptoms prevailed, were termed bilious remittents; in some instances these symptoms have run very high, and the accompanying fever in such cases has generally been more ardent and constant; but nevertheless

* I also consider the black vomit as a symptom peculiar to this disease, having never met with it in any other.

theless sensible remissions so generally accompanied them, that they were always looked for; and it is now thought the duty of the physician to watch for them, and by emetics, other evacuations, and blisters to promote them, so as to procure an opportunity to administer the Peruvian bark, by which the cure was generally completed.—Now and then, and particularly during the war, when the city was much crowded, and little attention was paid to cleanliness; fevers of a more malignant nature have prevailed, in which a foul mouth, hæmorrhages, petechial eruptions, and other marks of dissolution have either characterised the disease from its commencement, or been superadded to the bilious symptoms in the latter stages; and then the disease has been termed malignant, putrid petechial, jail or hospital fever. In such cases I have now and then seen profuse bloody discharges and black, or as it is now more generally named, coffee-ground vomiting;* but a more frequent symptom in these fevers, and one I do not remember to have seen in Yellow Fever, is the aphthous crust with which the mouth and throat is often lined.—In these fevers death seldom occurs, nor is a crisis often to be expected before the seventh day, and both are frequently protracted

to

* Is this of the same nature with the black vomiting of Yellow Fever? I suspect not.

to the fourteenth or even to the twentieth—such were the cases of my sister during the war, and of my son about six years ago, which you have frequently heard me mention. Just before, and what gave occasion to the appointment of the health-officer of New York, about the year 1758 or '59, a ship crowded with Germans arrived there in a very sickly state, and were put under my father's care. He procured accommodations for the sick at a little distance from town; and I have heard him say, that out of five or six pupils and attendants, he was the only person who escaped the disease—this disease he always called ship or jail fever, but never Yellow Fever, and it is worthy of observation that he had seen the Yellow Fever which prevailed in New York about the year 1744. Another instance of the same nature occurred whilst I was health-officer, I mean the ship in which Mr. M'Clain came from Scotland; in which out of I think about three hundred passengers, upwards of seventy died; but of those I saw, no one case which in the least resembled Yellow Fever.

The first case of fever I ever saw with that assemblage of symptoms we have since denominated Yellow Fever, was the case of Mr. Jenkins.* To this I was called in consultation with my father—I found

D

Mr.

* In the year 1795.

Mr. Jenkins perfectly in his senses, walking about his chamber, and alternately sitting on his bed, with an handkerchief in his hand, continually wiping the blood which oozed from his mouth and gums, and with a very yellow skin. But what struck me most forcibly was the slowness and regularity of his pulse; insomuch that upon retiring to another room, I remarked, that notwithstanding the other threatening symptoms, I could not help entertaining the most confident expectation of his recovery: my father, however, immediately checked my hopes by informing me, that this was a case of the *Yellow Fever of the West Indies*, that he considered the patient in the most imminent danger, and indeed had little or no hopes of his recovery. You know the event, and how soon we were convinced of the correctness of his judgment, both as to the fate of poor Jenkins, and the nature of his complaint.

Since this we have too frequently had to lament the occurrence of Yellow Fever, which all the experience I have had, has still tended to convince me is a disease I never saw before that case of Mr. Jenkins.

The rapid course of this fever, terminating in death sometimes so early as the second, frequently on the third and fourth, and seldom protracted to
the

the seventh day; the violence and unremitting nature of the symptoms; the discoloration of the skin, which is frequently livid rather than yellow; the hæmorrhages, black vomiting, and above all the cessation of fever, with the regularly slow pulse, which generally precede death, do in my opinion distinguish it from all others.

You will perceive that I consider this fever as a distinct idiopathic disease, and not a variety or grade of any other—I likewise believe it to be a stranger and not a native of our country, and from the best information I have been able to obtain, in every instance of accession imported from abroad.

I am, &c.

S. BARD.

December 17th, 1803.

DOCTOR D. HOSACK.

Extracts from Dr. John Redman's Letter to the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, on the Yellow Fever of 1762. Read September 7th, 1793.

My memory being much impaired by age and infirmities, I have endeavoured to assist my recollection respecting the Yellow Fever, which raged amongst us chiefly in the southern part of the city in 1762, by recurring to my day-book, in August, September, and October of that year, and by making inquiries

quiries of some persons whom I remembered to have attended at that time under particular circumstances.

By the aforefaid retroſpection, I find I muſt have had one patient as early as the 20th of Auguſt— whoſe caſe I treated at firſt as a remittent, from the circumſtance of his living above a mile from the city, to the ſouthward, near low and wet grounds; though he ſometimes came to town and tranſacted buſineſs near the place where the Yellow Fever had then juſt began to appear, and I had not then ſeen any of them. I had another patient on the 28th of Auguſt—from thence to September 1ſt, four or five—from that time they daily increaſed, ſo that from the 20th to the 25th of September, (when the diſeaſe appears to have been at its height,) I attended daily 18 or 20 patients; though other phyſicians had more; and I believe Dr. Bond and others had patients in it about a week before me: from the 27th the diſeaſe appears to have declined, ſo that by the 20th of October I had but two or three freſh patients in it, and thoſe I believe only ſuch perſons as had lately come to lodge or live in that part of the town; after this time I had a few more ſcattered patients; and alſo two in the firſt week of November, but none afterwards.

The fever aforesaid was mostly circumscribed between Pine-street northerly, and three or four squares from thence southerly, and extended from Front or Water-street to Third or Fourth streets westward: very few had it above Walnut-street. Its first and greatest ravages were about the New Market, and the square to the eastward of it; in which, after some considerable search and tracing it, it was found to have originated in a number of small back tenements forming a kind of court, the entrance to which was by two narrow alleys from Front and Pine-streets, and where sailors often had their lodgings; to which a sick sailor from on board a vessel from the Havannah, where it then raged, was brought privately after night, before the vessel had come up to town, to the house of one Leadbetter, where he soon died, and was secretly buried. And I believe Leadbetter, with most of his family and many others in that court, soon after fell a sacrifice to the distemper; and from thence it spread rapidly, first affecting the houses nearest adjoining in Front and Pine-streets.

In this disease, a bowl of vinegar was kept in the chamber of the sick, with an hot iron sometimes put therein, which served for the benefit of the patient, the physician and the attendants, and indeed was useful for dipping the hand therein, and rubbing
 one's

one's face before approaching the bed and feeling the pulse. This was the chief preventive or preservative I used, besides great temperance, avoiding to visit patients fasting, if possible, and keeping tobacco in my mouth while in the sick room; not from any expectation of benefit from any quality in the tobacco, except that of preventing my swallowing my saliva. This method I found better than a constant use of preservatives; which after a little time, I perceived to affect my mind with such fears as I thought were likely to render me more susceptible of infection than the omission of them: and so discarded them and went fearless, though not thoughtless, wherever called; and I thank God have been preserved harmless from such ills to this day.



Communication from Dr. Joseph Bayley, to Dr. David Hosack.

SIR,

The queries which you were pleased to address to me require an apology for not attending to them sooner. A change in my situation in life, prompted me to set apart, at this season of leisure, a little time to visit my friends in the country.

I have

I have answered the questions very briefly, but the same candidly.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient, and

Very humble servant.

JOSEPH BAYLEY.

January, 1804.

1st. *Quere.* Do you consider it (the Yellow Fever) as differing from typhus fever, and bilious remitting fever, and in what does it differ from those fevers?

A. It differs from typhus in the rapidity of its progress through its different stages, and the irritability of the stomach. Bilious remitting fever is a milder disease of longer duration; the yellowness of the body is an invariable attendant, and comes on at the beginning; but that discoloration of the skin which frequently accompanies Yellow Fever comes on later, and is of a dusky yellow or orange colour, readily distinguished from the yellowness of bilious fever; the matter vomited in bilious fever, is always bilious, from a bright yellow to a dark green.

2d. *Q.* Have you ever seen the Yellow Fever on board of vessels arriving from our southern states, or what are the symptoms which are usually met with in the fevers on board those vessels?

A.

A. When the Yellow Fever rages in any of those states, persons ill with this disease arrive in vessels. But this is not the case when the Yellow Fever is not epidemic ; but bilious remitting fever and intermitting fever are the usual diseases received at the Marine hospital from coasting vessels, in the months of July, August, September, and October.

3d. Q. Have you ever seen a fever with black vomit, orange-coloured skin, and terminating fatally within seven days, on board the Irish ships crowded with passengers? is a fever of this sort frequently met with? or does it usually assume the characters of the typhus fever, i. e. jail or hospital fever arising from confined human effluvia?

A. Among the greater number of sick Irish emigrants that arrived here in the year 1801, I have seen four cases of fever, that terminated in black vomit (of the colour of very weak coffee, with black mucous particles floating in it) on the seventh or eighth day of the disease. Their eyes were inflamed and protruded; the skin began to change after the third or fourth day, and before death was universally of an orange colour; but there was not that nausea and vomiting at the beginning as in Yellow Fever.

4th. Q. Is the common typhus fever frequently observed in vessels from the West Indies, or from our southern states?

A.

A. I have seen typhus fever in vessels that have had long passages from the West Indies, likewise from the East Indies, but never from the southern states.

5. Q. Have you ever seen the common autumnal remittent as observed in this country on board of the West India or Irish vessels?

A. In passenger vessels from Ireland late in the fall, and beginning of winter, and occasionally on board West India vessels, fevers resembling the autumnal remittent are met with.

6. Q. If you have ever seen a vomiting of black matter in the passengers of Irish ships, did it occur on ship board, or after their removal to the hospital on shore? did the matter vomited resemble coffee grounds, or did it appear in the form of flakes, or was it merely of a dirty brown colour?

A. The hospital being crowded by an unusual number of sick, temporary sheds were put up and tents pitched for their reception. The four cases of black vomit (as described under the 3d answer) that occurred among the Irish emigrants were under the sheds or tents.

7. Q. And in those cases did the fever prove fatal, and at what period of the disease?

A. Answered above.

8. Q. Was this black vomit a circumstance of frequent occurrence on board of the Irish ships, or did

the fever of those ships frequently prove fatal without much affection of the stomach, and what was its usual duration.

A. There were between 600 and 700 Irish passengers admitted into the Marine hospital with ship fever in 1801 : four cases of black vomit, exactly resembling that which is brought up from the stomach in Yellow Fever from the West Indies, occurred among them ; there was dark-coloured matter brought up in other cases in the last stage of disease, though not frequent ; nausea and sometimes vomiting occasionally happened in the beginning, and were removed by emetics ; but this affection of the stomach was not a very distressing symptom, and easily obviated ; the duration of disease from 7 to 21 days ; some remained a long time convalescent, others relapsed.

9. Q. Have you observed bilious discharges from the stomach to be frequent in the commencement of fevers occurring on board the Irish ships and those from the West Indies ; or have you observed this circumstance more frequently as the attendant upon fevers in those vessels from our southern states ; and have you observed those fevers to be equally fatal with those on board the Irish and West India vessels ?

A. Oftener from the West Indies, than from Ireland, but neither very frequent. Vessels which arrive at this port in July, August, September, and October,

ber, from South Carolina and Georgia, have generally some of their crew sick with fever attended with bilious discharges : these fevers are not so frequent in vessels from Virginia and North Carolina, nor are they so fatal as those produced in crowded passenger vessels or as those from the West Indies.

10. Q. In what species of the above fevers have you found emetics most serviceable, or have you observed them to be injurious in any case.

A. They have been given with advantage at the Marine hospital in the beginning of ship fever, in fevers from the southern states throughout the disease, except in cases where there was extreme debility and peculiarity of constitution that would render their use improper ; but in Yellow Fever, where it is difficult to get the mildest liquids to be retained, emetics, instead of giving relief, only add to the already too irritable state of the stomach, and hasten the fatal termination.

11. Q. In which cases have you employed the bark with benefit, and in which have you observed it to disagree with the patient ?

A. In ship-fever when there was evident remission ; in bilious fever, after it had run its course, and left the patient exhausted ; then the cold infusion of bark with magnesia has been productive of benefit ; but in Yellow Fever, after there has been a complete remission, the bark, instead of lengthening this,
hastens

hastens the return of fever, and I have seldom found bark admissible until the patient can do well without it ; therefore I consider it a doubtful remedy, except in those cases attended with abscesses, and where the convalescence is very long.

12th. Q. Of what disease did Dr. Bayley and Dr. Ledyard perish ? have you reason to suppose they received the cause of their fevers on board of particular vessels, or to what causes do you ascribe them ?

A. Both of Yellow Fever. I presume they both received the cause of their disease from infected vessels, but what particular vessels cannot be ascertained, as many are visited daily ; and it may so happen that the least infected, examined when we are fatigued, or slightly indisposed, will cause disease, when another in a much more polluted condition, inspected when the body and mind are in a state of vigour, will receive no injury or so slightly as readily to yield to mild remedies.

13th. Q. Have you not frequently remarked that the crew of a vessel became unhealthy immediately upon breaking bulk, whereas at sea they had been in good health ; has this frequently been the case when they came from an healthy port, or was it invariably found, where they thus became seized with fevers upon opening the vessel, that they had come from an unhealthy port ?

A.

A. Several vessels have arrived at this port, that have lost part of their crews in the West Indies ; and some sick at the time of their sailing, who either recovered or died before the arrival of the vessel in this port, at which time the remaining seamen were healthy, and no sickness on board for ten or twenty days ; but when those same seamen were engaged in discharging the cargo, some of them sickened and died of Yellow Fever. This pent-up air of the hold was no doubt similar to that in the unhealthy port from which they came, and to which their shipmates fell a sacrifice in the West Indies. The ship *General Wayne* which arrived here in the year 1799, is a memorable, as well as a fatal case to illustrate this fact : on her arrival one of her seamen was sick with Yellow Fever, who died a few days after his admission into the Marine hospital ; the remaining crew, about twenty-two in number, were healthy, and continued so until eight days after, when a passenger sickened with the same disease. The ship was detained eighteen days at quarantine from the time that the last sick man was removed to the hospital ; all the crew continuing healthy, she was permitted to proceed to the city (no stores being built at Staten Island at that time to receive the cargoes of infected vessels, no part of the *General Wayne's* was removed while she remained at quarantine) where, in a few days after she came to a wharf,

wharf, and when they began to unload, several inhabitants in the neighbourhood sickened and died of Yellow Fever.

14th. Q. Have you observed the Yellow Fever to spread in your hospital in any season when introduced, or is it in no instance communicated upon Staten Island?

A. Since the establishment of the quarantine ground at Staten Island, two persons connected with the institution, besides the health-officers, have died with Yellow Fever, one a servant of Dr. Bayley's, who frequently slept in the hospital, in the year 1799, the other, in the year 1800, an aged carpenter. A nurse had the disease last season: the attendants have been indisposed with fever every year, but never so completely marked as to be denominated Yellow Fever, excepting those already mentioned.

15th. Q. What was Dr. Ledyard's opinion of the origin of Yellow Fever, that it was imported from the West-Indies, or generated at home?

Dr. Ledyard believed in the exclusive importation of the Yellow Fever, and his reasons for it were, that during his residence in this city, before and after the American revolution, when it was in a very filthy condition, he never saw the disease; and while practising on Long Island, he frequently had patients with malignant and infectious fevers arising

arising from animal and vegetable putrefaction, but never attended with such symptoms as occur in Yellow Fever; which disease he first attended on Long Island, in 1798, brought from this city.

Letter from Dr. David Hosack of New York, to Dr. William Currie.

This paper (Dr. Joseph Bayley's) contains a statement of the situation, &c. of our quarantine ground. The difference between ship and Yellow Fever in its fatality is here clearly shewn. It will also be observed, that many persons from the Irish ships were subsequently attacked with Yellow fever; the consequence of being introduced into the hospital where the Yellow Fever prevailed at the time, or had lately existed. This measure was unavoidable, as they had not sufficient apartments to separate the sick. This fact Dr. Bayley before stated to me, that he had seen no black vomit, nor other characteristic symptoms of Yellow Fever amongst the Irish patients, until they had been some days in the hospital; or in other words, had been exposed to the infection of Yellow Fever.

You are welcome to make any use of the papers I send you. The testimonies of Dr. Bard, and Dr. Charlton

Charlton must be very interesting, and not less so the communication of Dr. Joseph Bayley from our quarantine ground.

It may not be an unimportant fact, that I have been informed by the same gentleman, that Dr. Ledyard died of the Yellow Fever at the quarantine ground, and not of gout, as represented.

Dr. Ledyard, when he first entered upon the duties of the Health-office, as he himself informed me, went to Staten Island with the belief that the Yellow Fever was not an imported disease, but generated at home. A few weeks before his death he informed me that he had been compelled to change his belief, and that all his observations at the Health-office satisfied him that the Yellow Fever was exclusively derived from the West-Indies. That he had seen the bilious remittent from our southern states, and the ship fever in the crowded ships from Ireland, but that he had never seen the black vomit and the orange-coloured skin attending either the fever of the Irish vessels or the bilious remittent from Georgia or the Carolinas. The records of the New York hospital will also testify, if necessary, that in no one instance where the ship fever of the Irish vessels proved fatal, it was terminated either by the yellow skin or
black

black vomit. Three or four years since many of the sick were conveyed to our City Hospital, and were attended by Dr. Hamersley and myself; and, generally, where they proved fatal, it was not in less than from fifteen to twenty-five days: not so, certainly, with Yellow Fever.

Yours, truly,

D. HOSACK.

New York, }
January 19th, 1805. }

Cases of Yellow Fever which occurred in the Pennsylvania Hospital, in the year 1798.

BY the minutes of the fitting managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital it appears, that on the 25th of August, 1798, “no case has occurred of Yellow Fever this month in the hospital. The patients “have been forbid to go out, and visitors to come “in, by the fitting managers; on account of the “said fever prevailing in the city. They also by a “minute have excepted against the admission of all “fevers, during the prevalence of the present epidemic; and agreed, that the physicians should *not* “recommend

“ recommend any cafes from houfes in which the
 “ diforder is fufpected to be.”

September 22d, 1798. They fay, “ Catharine
 “ Shepard, the affiftant nurse of the men’s ward,
 “ took the Yellow Fever the 8th inst. and remains ill
 “ in the houfe. She is fuppofed to have taken the
 “ fever, by going for clothes into the city. The
 “ fitting managers, at the request of Wm. Annelly
 “ and James Brown, (two of the journeymen car-
 “ penters employed in the building) admitted them
 “ to fleep in the garret of the western apartment,
 “ on their promifing not to enter the city; and
 “ agreeing, if taken ill of the fever, to be removed,
 “ if required, to the City Hofpital. William An-
 “ nelly is now unwell, and fuppofed to be in the
 “ fever, but not afcertained. He has been feveral
 “ times in town, which may account for his taking
 “ the diforder.”

October 27th, 1798. The managers fay, “ Our
 “ pupil, G. Lee, took the Yellow Fever the 7th
 “ inst. he fuppofes in the city. Patrick Savage
 “ the cell-keeper got drunk on receiving his wages,
 “ and lay all night in a houfe where the fever was;
 “ and in the morning of the 8th, he took it very
 “ badly. Elizabeth M’Gregor took the fever the
 “ 14th.

“ 14th. She had not been in the city at all, since
 “ it broke out. Mordecai Ackly took it the same
 “ day, and died on the 19th. He had *not* been out
 “ of the hospital for four months past. On the 14th,
 “ Caleb Parr took it also, and died the next day.
 “ he had *not* been in town for years. Barbara Place,
 “ the cook, just employed as such from Passyunk,
 “ took it the 20th, and died the 25th; she might
 “ have brought it with her: and Elizabeth Robe-
 “ son, nurse of the New House, took it the 27th.”
 N. B. She died in November.

From the foregoing records it appears, Catharine
 Shepard, William Annesly, Dr. Lee and Patrick
 Savage caught the fever by visiting infected houses
 in the city; and that Elizabeth M^cGregor, Mor-
 decai Ackly, Caleb Parr and Elizabeth Robeson af-
 terwards took the disease, probably from the *first*
 mentioned cases having brought the fever into the
 house. Doctor Lee afterwards observed, that some
 more of the patients were indisposed, but soon
 recovered. All suspicious cases were kept apart
 from the well, and every unnecessary intercourse
 forbid; which prevented the disease from spreading
 any further in the hospital.

THOMAS PARKE,

*One of the Physicians of the
 Pennsylvania Hospital.*

July 1805.

Statement of facts tending to prove the contagious nature of the Yellow Fever, at Germantown, in the year 1798, by C. Wistar, M. D.

THE disease which produced the fatal effects now to be related, commenced in the family of Elizabeth Johnson, a widow who lived in the main street of the village of Germantown, about six and an half miles from Philadelphia.

The person first affected was her child, Betsey Johnson, who had been in Philadelphia from the third to the seventh of August, in a neighbourhood where several cases of the fever had already appeared. She returned home the seventh, and on the ninth of the same month was attacked with the Yellow Fever, which terminated fatally in four days.

Fourteen days after her death, viz. August 27th, Mrs. Duy, the next neighbour of Mrs. Johnson, who had visited Betsey several times during her illness, was attacked with a fever supposed to be of the same kind, and died at the end of four days.

On the thirtieth of August, the wife of Charles Hubbs, who also lived near to Mrs. Johnson, and had visited both Betsey and Mrs. Duy, once at least during their respective indispositions, *but had not been in Philadelphia for many months*, was attacked with unequivocal symptoms of the Yellow
Fever,

Fever, in its most malignant form, and died the 2d of September.

Mr. Duy, husband of the above-mentioned Mrs. Duy, was attacked eighteen days after the death of his wife, viz. September 18, and died also, after an illness of six days.

A few days after the death of Mrs. Duy, an English gentleman and his wife, of the name of Fisher, who had fled from Philadelphia on account of the fever, went to board with Mr. Duy, and were placed in the chamber occupied by his late wife during her illness: they were also attacked with fever. Mrs. Fisher was taken, September 19th, and recovered in a few days, but Mr. Fisher, who was attacked four days after his wife, died with the black vomit, the 27th of September.

At the same time, the disease re-appeared in Mrs. Johnson's family, in a young female servant, who was very ill, but recovered,—soon after the attack of this girl, Mrs. Johnson herself was taken ill with the same disease: she had visited both of her neighbours, Mrs. Duy and Mrs. Hubbs, while they were sick, she also had afforded the clothes of her deceased daughter, four or five days before her own attack commenced, but had not been in Philadelphia for a month. Her disorder continued eight days, and terminated the 28th of September, with convulsions and the black vomit.

A few days before the death of Mrs. Johnson, Elizabeth Stern, a woman who lived in the family, was attacked with fever, and became very yellow. Her symptoms appeared moderate at first, but after lingering a fortnight she died also.—The wife of a tenant of Mrs. Johnson, who lived in a separate part of the house, but used the same yard, was attacked before the death of Elizabeth Stern, and recovered with great difficulty.

The last victim to be mentioned, was one Stephen Post, an old man, who lived at a distance, but worked in Mr. Duy's barn, while the bed was there on which Mrs. Duy died. He also was attacked with fever, and died in a few days.

These melancholy circumstances occurred in a village which has long been remarkable for its salubrity, at a time when the other inhabitants enjoyed their usual health. In most of the cases, the disease appears to have been contracted at the house of Mrs. Johnson, which, before this distressing period, had been eminently distinguished by the health and longevity of its inhabitants. The family were extremely neat, and it may be asserted with confidence, that the premises were never more clean, than they were at the time of this truly affecting catastrophe. What cause but contagion is adequate to the production of such a disease among persons so situated?

Philadelphia, Dec. 15, 1805.

Germantown

Letter from Dr. George Bensell to Dr. Caspar Wistar.

Germantown, May 4th, 1805.

DEAR SIR,

THE events that took place in Germantown in the summer of 1798, have excited much attention and discussion; tending to establish the belief of the existence of contagion in Yellow Fever, even out of the city of Philadelphia. Some of the cases brought forward for this purpose having come under my observation, I shall state them, as they occurred, agreeably to your desire, leaving to your judgment, to draw the proper inference therefrom.

On the 10th August, 1798, I was called to the daughter of Mrs. Johnson, whom I found labouring under fever, with symptoms of the most alarming nature: I immediately suggested to a friend of the family, that it was probable it would terminate fatally, and at the same time intimated, that she had the Yellow Fever. She died on the 13th.

On the 30th August, I was requested to see Mrs. Hubbs, who lived immediately opposite to Mrs. Johnson's: she was seized with a violent vomiting, which had continued several hours, and was accompanied with ardent and incessant fever; bearing
strong

strong marks of malignancy, on the second day from the attack. She died on the 2d September, having previously vomited the brownish fluid so frequently described. Her skin was a deep orange colour; and various livid spots were to be seen on her neck, breast, and arms.—The mortality which soon afterwards happened in the neighbourhood, I had not an opportunity of making remarks on; but it is certain, that no fever had hitherto existed in Germantown, within the limits of my knowledge, whose tendency and termination possessed such powerful tokens of contagion.

In the case of Mrs. Hubbs, I had the most solemn assurances, that she had not been in the city during the summer; and these were made by her husband, a man eminent for the moral rectitude of his conduct, and a distinguished preacher, among the society of *Duncards*.

How then shall we account for the rapid violence of her death, the presence of symptoms so unusual and destructive, as well as the subsequent signs of malignancy after disease? This woman's fate has always been to me completely inexplicable. In the course of 19 years, I have never seen any thing like it in Germantown, or in the surrounding country, where my practice has extended.

The

The village itself is scarcely susceptible of the autumnal diseases, that are to be found every year on higher and lower ground, above, below, and around it: the proper line of demarcation might commence from the height as you enter it, and end at *Cliveden*, the summer residence of Mr. Chew; immediately above which, is *Beggarstown*, where the dysentery began in 1803, and extended itself to *Chestnut-hill*, wearing the appearance of an epidemic: its progress was marked with unusual fatality, to adults as well as children.

In 1802, I do not recollect in my practice a case of scarlet-fever in the village—but it was to be met with in short, and remote distances from it; and seemed to traverse every possible variety of situation. I found it along the margins of the *Schuylkill* and *Wissahiccon*, as well as on the high and rocky grounds above.

This singular exclusion from epidemics, it would perhaps be difficult to assign any good reason for: but facts of this kind may be traced, as far back as 1787, when the cynanche maligna swept away a great proportion of many families, on the elevated situations of the *Ridge* and *Chestnut-hill*, as
well

well as in the low lands of the neighbouring townships.

With the greatest esteem and friendship,

I am, dear sir,

Your most obedient servant.

GEORGE BENSELL.

DR. CASPAR WISTAR.

Letters from Dr. Charles Meredith to Dr. S. P. Griffitts.

Philadelphia, May 3d, 1805.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am extremely sorry it is not in my power to furnish you with a very circumstantial account of the diseases of Robert Kirkbride and his daughter. I was not engaged in attendance on either of them, and I believe saw them but once. The circumstances, in both cases, were however too impressivè to be easily forgotten. During the prevalence of the Yellow Fever, in the autumn of 1798, Mr. Kirkbride made a visit to Philadelphia. Very soon after his departure from thence, he was attacked with symptoms of fever, and immediately on his arrival at home, about 26 miles from the city, my father was called in, who attended him during the remainder of his illness. I saw

saw him on the following day ; he appeared much affected with languor and debility, and presented the usual appearances of a person struggling with the first symptoms of a highly malignant disease. His eyes were much suffused with blood, and his pulse did not exceed forty pulsations in a minute. I fully concurred with my father in opinion, that his disease was entirely similar to that which prevailed at the same time in this city, to such an alarming degree. Not having an opportunity of seeing him afterwards, I am unable to detail the symptoms as they occurred ; but the event fully justified the opinion we had formed : an intense yellowness of the skin took place early, and he died, I believe, on the ninth day.

His daughter, a young woman, of about 18 years of age, attended him as nurse during his illness, and at the time of his death, was seized with symptoms of fever, which exhibited from the first still greater marks of malignity ; but as I did not see her till the day she died, it is not in my power to give you a history of her case ; the appearances then, however, left me no room to doubt of the nature of her disease. There was an universal suffusion of bile over the whole surface of her body, which, I was informed, had taken place on the third day ; and she had vomited much dark-coloured matter, resembling

coffee-

coffee-grounds, the morning I saw her ; from that time till her death, she continued in a state of stupor, from which she could with difficulty be awakened, her countenance exhibiting, at the same time, the most striking indications of the ravages of Yellow Fever. She died on the fifth day. From all the symptoms that I saw, and learned from her attendants, I could not hesitate to believe her disease was, in its nature, precisely similar to her father's ; but owing, perhaps, to her time of life, and greater degree of predisposition, still more malignant, and speedy in its termination. I regret much, that my information on this subject is so limited, but think it probable I can procure a more particular account of both cases ; if so, I will take an early opportunity to communicate it.

I am, with much respect,

Yours, &c.

CHARLES MEREDITH.

DR. GRIFFITTS.

Philadelphia, May 30th, 1805.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have been disappointed in my expectation of receiving further information respecting the cases of Mr. Kirkbride and his daughter. It appears, there have

have been no regular statements preserved ; but am happy to say, that my father's account, although not more minute, corresponds entirely with that I had the pleasure to communicate some time ago.

As the daughter of Mr. Kirkbride had not been in Philadelphia, previously to her illness, the circumstances of her disease were calculated to excite considerable alarm, and more especially so, as no person appeared to entertain a doubt of the source whence it proceeded : every one seemed ready to attribute it to contagion received from the father, and indeed her constant attendance, together with the solicitude and fear with which she regarded the situation of a beloved parent, must have rendered her system extremely favourable to the reception of disease. But what principally favoured the opinion of the daughter's illness depending on the contagious nature of her father's, was the general state of health that prevailed in the place. Few local situations are perhaps entirely exempted from the occasional visits of autumnal fever; but in this particular neighbourhood there exist few of its remote causes, and consequently its appearance is by no means frequent, and its symptoms seldom marked by any peculiar malignity. Although Mr. Kirkbride's family was numerous, I do not recollect a case of autumnal remittent to have happened in it before or after the
 fatal

fatal period in 1798. There were, however, a few cases in the vicinity, about the time of Mr. Kirkbride's death, the only one of which I recollect to have terminated fatally, was protracted until the twentieth day.

I have, sir, stated such facts as have recurred to my recollection, and cannot conclude without regretting my inability to give a more minute account of a case, which might perhaps have *some* tendency to elucidate a subject, that has called forth different opinions from men of the highest personal merit, and professional respectability.

With sincere esteem,

Yours, &c.

CHARLES MEREDITH.

DR. SAMUEL P. GRIFFITTS.

Doctor John Wilson's Letter to Dr. Wistar.

DEAR SIR,

I received your request of July 2d, respecting the case of R. Kirkbride's daughter; but perhaps I am not sufficiently able to satisfy you on the subject, as I was not called upon in the primary stage of her complaint. I was called to visit R. Kirkbride's daughter, October 3d, 1798, and on the third day
of

her disease. She was labouring under all the symptoms of Yellow Fever as described by authors, and similar to those I had before seen, only attended with more yellowness of the skin: I visited her twice on the 4th, and once on the 5th of October, upon which day she died. I was informed, that she had not been to the city, or even from home, for some time. She nursed her father with great diligence, during his illness, who was kept pretty much confined in a small room, and was once very much overcome with fear, on account of his fainting. The neighbourhood of R. Kirkbride, as well as my own, was very healthy, as far as my observation and practice extended, during the prevalence of Yellow Fever in your city, and not one case of our common bilious fever occurred during that time, as far as I can recollect.

Dr. Meredith, senr. attended R. Kirkbride during his illness, and also his daughter in the primary part of her disease. From him some light, possibly, may be obtained on this subject.

With sentiments of esteem,

I remain,

Your friend and well wisher,

JOHN WILSON.

July 10th, 1805.

DR. CASPAR WISTAR.

Letter from Dr. Eneas Munson, to Dr. William Shippen.

New-Haven, May 3d, 1805.

SIR,

Yours of the 27th ult. in due time came to hand; but my ill health prevented that immediate attention to the subject which it merited, and might have been expected.

In the year 1794, we were visited with the Yellow Fever in this town: I then took much pains to find out and ascertain the origin of it, by collecting facts. My scrutiny in the affair excited others to the same inquiry. We found the facts to be such, as soon convinced the more thinking part of the town, that it was introduced by the sloop Iris, and spread by contagion, from one to another, in almost every instance, as far as it prevailed. The facts were at that time so recent and obvious, and the public mind was so fully convinced, that I neglected the necessary steps to authenticate my communications to Mr. Webster, which he published, not apprehending the importance and consequence of it; but as those facts were, in the public prints, said to be stated from popular tales and idle reports, I was under the necessity, about two years since, of going over the ground again, in vindication of my character,

ter, in regard to my communications, as in Mr. W.'s publication ; and although at such a distance of time, when many witnesses were not to be procured, yet the more substantial facts were supported by the depositions of a number of our most respectable citizens, which are now in the hands of either Doctor David Hofack, or the Editor of the Evening Post, New York. An instance of importation at Chatham, on Connecticut river, might have been as clearly evinced as that in New-Haven : but I have too many matters at this time of life to attend to, beside hunting up evidence to establish a fact so abundantly evinced already.

I could mention a number of solitary cases of its introduction since, and those decided and clearly marked ; but what shall I say more ? Through all my pilgrimage in life, which is upwards of seventy years, I have never met with any of the human race more blind than those who were determined they would not see.

Such vouchers as I have procured, I wish may be lodged in some public records, for the benefit of those who may come after us ; though I do not think it will remain long a subject of dispute

Your most obedient servant,

ENEAS MUNSON.

DR. WILLIAM SHIPPEN.

H

History

History of the origin and progress of the Yellow Fever in New-Haven, 1794. Extracted from the New-York Evening Post, of October, 1803.

“ The history of the origin and progress of the *Yellow Fever* at New-Haven, has been compiled by gentlemen on the spot, fully competent to the task, and unincumbered with the bias of distorting theories. They have presented us with a minute and well connected series of facts, which, having been recorded while of recent occurrence, are calculated to make an impression too deep and lasting, to give way to disingenuous cavils, or silly sophistries.”

The following statements are made by Dr. Munson, jun. and his father, and published by Mr. Webster, in 1796.

“ On the 10th of June 1794, (says Dr. Munson) the pestilential, or *Yellow Fever*, appeared here. Dr. Hotchkiss visited Isaac Gorham’s wife, on the Long-Wharf. She complained of a violent pain in her head, back and limbs; her eyes were dull and slightly inflamed; she had nausea at her stomach, was obstinately costive, with a moderate degree of fever. No marks of inflammation were discoverable by inspection in the throat. The distressful symptoms

toms

toms, above mentioned, continued till the fourteenth; when her pain and distress suddenly subsided, and she was elated with the prospect of a speedy recovery. In the evening she vomited matter resembling coffee-grounds; and died on the fifteenth. The physician who attended her, was ignorant of her complaint till he saw what she had vomited. He then declared her disease to be the *Yellow Fever*.

On the 15th of June, I visited Elias Gorham's daughter, a child of eight years of age, in Chapel-Street, three-quarters of a mile from Isaac Gorham's house. She had been sick three days; her countenance was flushed with a deep red colour; her eyes were dull, and highly inflamed; she had violent pain in her head, back, and limbs; nausea, and frequent vomiting; obstinate costiveness; a quick, full, hard, throbbing pulse; her skin was hot and dry; and her tongue covered with a thick white fur. On the 16th, her pain and distress suddenly abated; in a few hours, she vomited up matter resembling coffee-grounds; and died the next day. I inspected her throat, during her illness, and could discover no marks of inflammation.

I was surprised at the singular appearance of the disease, and hearing of the death of Mrs. Gorham, (Isaac Gorham's wife) inquired of the mother if her daughter

daughter had been on the *wharf*. She informed me that the child had lived with her aunt (Isaac Gorham's wife) nearly a week.

The 23d of June, I visited the child's mother. She complained of violent pain in her head, back, and limbs; nausea; frequent vomiting; obstinate costiveness; with a considerable degree of fever. These symptoms continued five or six days; then gradually abated; and soon after she recovered her usual health.

On the 20th of June, Mr. Elijah Austin died in New-York; and his clerk, Henry Hubbard, died in Derby. They complained within three or four hours of each other; and Mr. Hubbard vomited matter resembling coffee-grounds.

The inhabitants of this town were alarmed at these sudden deaths, and requested the *select-men* to make diligent inquiry into the origin of this disease. On examination, it appeared, that in the beginning of June, captain Truman arrived from Martinico, in a sloop that was infected with the contagion of the Yellow Fever; that this vessel lay at the *wharf*, within a few rods of Isaac Gorham's house; that she had on board a *chest of clothes*, which had belonged to a mariner who died of the Yellow Fever in Martinico; and that his chest was carried into Mr.

Austin's

Austin's store, and opened in the presence of captain Truman, Mr. Austin, Henry Hubbard, and Polly Gorham; the three last mentioned of whom died in a short time after their exposure to the contents of the chest:—hence it is highly probable, that Mrs. Gorham caught the disease from the infected sloop, or clothing. Mr. Austin's store stands within three or four rods of Isaac Gorham's house; and no person in town was known to have the Yellow Fever previous to captain Truman's arrival.

June 26th, Isaac Gorham lost an infant child with the Yellow Fever; and soon after his son and daughter were affected with it. The former died. Solomon Mudge died on the 30th; Jacob Thomson's negro woman, on the 1st of July; Archibald M'Neil on the 9th; Polly Brown on the 3d of August; John Storer, jun. and John Hide, on the 8th; and widow Thomson, on the 10th.—*Jacob Thomson's negro woman, Solomon Mudge, John Storer, jun. and John Hide, had visited Mr. Gorham's house a few days before their illness; Polly Brown and Mrs. Thomson, nursed in Mr. Gorham's family; and Archibald M'Neil nursed Solomon Mudge.*—Elias Gill died on the 12th of August; and Samuel Grifwold's wife on the 7th: *the former visited Mr. Gorham's house; the latter nursed in his family.*

There were a number of persons who caught the disease at Mr. Gorham's house, and recovered.

Mrs. Thomson, on the first day of her illness, was moved half a mile from Mr. Gorham's into George-street. Luther Fitch caught the disease from Mrs. Thomson, and communicated it to his servant maid. Both recovered.—Mr. Fitch lives in College-street, nearly three-quarters of a mile distant from Mr. Gorham's house. I could trace the disease throughout the town. *No person had the Yellow Fever, unless in consequence of attending the sick, or of being exposed by nurses, infected houses, clothing, or furniture.*

I have inquired of several aged persons in this town, relative to the Yellow Fever, whether they knew of its having ever been here previous to June 1794; and there is but a single instance, the facts relating to which are these:—In the year 1743, a transient person, by the name of Nevins, who came from the West-Indies, lodged at the house of Nathaniel Brown, an inn-keeper, in this city. The man was taken very sick in the night; and died shortly afterwards; and his body was very yellow, after death. Mr. Brown's wife sickened in a short time, and died of the same complaint; which was at that time supposed to be the Yellow Fever.

The following is an account of the number who died, with the Yellow Fever, in New-Haven, in the different months of the year 1794 :

June,	6
July,	3
August,	16
September,	26
October,	12
November,	1

—
Total 64

Of this number, forty-eight vomited matter resembling coffee-grounds, or port wine. There were about a hundred and sixty persons who had the Yellow Fever. Three persons recovered who vomited matter like coffee-grounds; but none recovered, that I remember, who vomited matter resembling port wine. Some vomited a viscid, tough mucus, similar to the white of an egg; others, matter like chocolate, which were as fatal as the black vomit.

“ In respect to the origin and nature of the disease under consideration, I esteem it justifiable to reason from facts alone. I am fully of opinion that the Yellow Fever is seldom or never generated in this country, [but] that it is
always

always imported from abroad.” “ Had it ever appeared in Connecticut, before the year 1743, and June, 1794, we should, undoubtedly, have had some record of the fact. There is no such record, and no person remembers to have heard of such a disease, but at these periods, prevailing in any part of the state. There are numbers of aged persons in New-Haven, who remember the putrid ulcerous sore throat, small-pox, measles, dysentery, &c. raging here, with great mortality; but have no recollection of any Yellow Fever. Hence we may rationally conclude that it never did appear, in this state, but in the years 1743, and 1794.

“ If the citizens of large commercial cities were attentive in tracing the origin of the Yellow Fever, on its *first appearing among them*, they would often find that the disease was imported. In some instances it would be extremely difficult to discover the origin. But the mischief lies in this—that the inhabitants of such cities, whenever a contagious disease makes its appearance among them, endeavour to suppress all rumor of it, from an apprehension of alarming the country and injuring their commerce; unwilling to believe that there is evil in the city till the disease spreads in every direction. Then, indeed, when it is too late, they are solicitous in the use of
means

means to arrest its progress. As it extends itself slowly, at first, seasonable exertion might both detect its source and prevent its increase; but when it is diffused through a city, it spreads with rapidity, and it is no longer possible to discover where it began. But as, whenever the Yellow Fever has appeared in the United States, it has always been in sea-port towns, and originated near wharves, docks and warehouses, there seems to be high probability that the disease is imported.

ELIJAH MUNSON.

New Haven, April 24, 1796.

Extract from the Letter of Dr. Munson, sen.

“ We have never, in this part of the country, (except in a single instance in the year 1743, been acquainted with a fever altogether similar to the one in question. True, some chronic complaints in the viscera, as well as acute sporadic fevers, ending in sphacelation, have been attended with the vomiting of a fluid, putting on the appearance of coffee-grounds, and terminated in a black vomit. We have often seen continual endemical fevers, intermittent, and remittent bilious fevers, originating

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from

from the putrid gases of animals and vegetables com-mixed, as from draining of ponds and stagnant waters—but no disease from these sources, or any in our climate, I conceive, ever compared with what is generally known by the name of Yellow Fever; no disease attended with so great rapidity, or characterised by that *deep-shaded*, universal yellowness, and vomiting of black-coloured matter, oozing from the surface of the stomach.

Dr. Ferriar observes, that pestilential disorders are not to be ascribed to animal putridity. Instances have been adduced in which thousands of dead bodies have been left to putrify on fields of battle, without producing pestilential fever; nor have fevers been observed to originate, or to rage more severely, in houses surrounding church-yards, though the stench is often insufferably offensive.

ENEAS MUNSON.”

New Haven, April, 1796.

Mr. Webster, in his “Concluding Observations,” admits the force of the above facts to be such as to make out one case of importation. “It seems to be *proved*, (such are his words) *that in New-Haven the disease was introduced and propagated by infection.*”

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The year subsequent to the above publication, Dr. Munson senior, in answer to a letter from Dr. Hosack of New-York, inquiring if any additional facts had come to his knowledge, gives him the following information which is transcribed from the original.

“ It was evident in almost every instance that the sick had been exposed. We were a long time, however, in the dark, respecting a small child about two years old, as the parents were confident it had never been abroad to be exposed. This was at length explained by one of the nurses, *who had been long in the infection*, who informed, that as he was passing the house, he saw the child endangered by a carriage, he caught it up in his arms and set it into the house, unknown to the parents. Another [youth] which died with the black vomit, the physician confidently asserted died of worms and not of the fever, which the inhabitants had conceived such apprehensions of at this time. The neighbourhood entertained an high opinion of the physician, and from unbounded confidence in him, friends and neighbours went in, as usual, to perform their kind offices to the sick. After death, the diseased was permitted the customary ceremonies of burial, which before this time had been laid aside in this fever. The corpse was exposed to view as is common, and borne of eight bearers, attended by a large procession. The consequence was a more extensive spread of the fever than

than was known during the whole sickness from any one individual. *Six out of the eight bearers were seized with the fever within a week, and many who attended at the house.*”

Notwithstanding Mr. Webster, after publishing the communication of Doctors Munson, acknowledged, that “in New-Haven, the disease was introduced and propagated by infection, yet he afterwards published in the Commercial Advertiser, a laboured refutation of every important circumstance, and attempted to produce a conclusion diametrically opposite, without the least apology for his change of opinion.

This occasioned Doctor Munson, sen. to be again applied to for information on the subject; and in a letter, in answer, dated New Haven, September, 1803, he confirms his former statements, and asserts that he has never seen reason to alter his opinion with respect to the introduction of the Yellow Fever into New Haven, in 1794.

From Mr. Webster’s account, it would appear, that the sloop Iris, Capt. Trueman, from Martinico, arrived [not first at New Haven, but] at New-York the latter part of May, 1794. Her crew and passengers being in health, she was admitted as a clean vessel,

vessel, and hauled up at or near a wharf. Here she lay wind-bound, from eight to twelve days ; during which time, no person on board was ill. Early in June, the sloop arrived at New Haven, as has been related by Dr. Munson.

Mr. Webster does not deny, that the cases of Yellow Fever, mentioned by Dr. Munson, occurred at New Haven, soon after the arrival of the sloop at that place ; but does not allow, that they originated from any contagion or infection imported in the sloop, although he acknowledges in one of his last publications on this subject, that “ from the sloop
 “ was landed a chest of clothes, which belonged to
 “ a seaman who died with Fever in Martinico ;
 “ which chest was opened and the contents inventoried by Mr. Austin in his store, in presence of
 “ capt. Truman, of Henry Hubbard, and of Polly
 “ Gorham, a niece of Isaac Gorham ; Mr. Austin
 “ and his clerk, continues he, were seized a few
 “ days after opening of the chest, &c.” and in the next page he says, “ If Mr. Austin, and his clerk,
 “ received the seeds of the disease from the clothing
 “ of the chest, *as it is possible they did*, the sources
 “ of the disease must have been the foetid effluvia of
 “ dirty clothes, which had been a long time close
 “ packed in a chest in a sultry climate.”

To prove that the contagion or infection was not imported into New Haven in the blanket or clothing of the seaman who died of Yellow Fever from on board the sloop Iris, whilst at Martinico—Mr. Webster and the committee of the medical society of New-York, refer to the following affidavits of Leverett Stevens, and captain Trueman.

Affidavit of the mate of the sloop Iris.

City of New York, ss.

Leverett Stevens, late mate of the sloop Iris, of New-Haven, being duly sworn, deposeth and saith—That he knew John Wilson, the sailor belonging to the said sloop—That he, this deponent, was on shore with him at the time of his death, and assisted in sewing up in *a blanket*, the body of the said John Wilson, together with *all the wearing apparel which he had on shore*, and that *no part whatever of the same, was returned on board of the sloop*. And this deponent further saith, that the regimental coat found in the chest of the deceased, on board, was a new garment, taken out of a bale a few days before, in the presence of this deponent, and to the best of his knowledge and belief, had never been worn. And this deponent further saith, that the jackets and trowsers found in the said chest were also

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so new, and taken a few days before, in the sight of this deponent, from another bale of goods; and as this deponent verily believes, had never been worn by the said John Wilson, *in his life-time*, nor by any other person. And this deponent further saith, that being at the compting-house of Elijah Austin, *before* the opening of John Wilson's chest of things in the store, and before the said Elijah's departure for the city of New-York, whither he said he was going, this deponent heard him complain of being unwell, but that notwithstanding, he must proceed on his journey. And further this deponent saith not.

LEVERETT STEVENS.

Sworn before me this 16th Nov. 1798.

GABRIEL FURMAN, *Alderman.*

Affidavit of the captain of the sloop Iris.

City of New York, ff.

Daniel Trueman, late commander of the sloop Iris, which sailed from New Haven in the winter of the year 1794, on a voyage to Martinique, being duly sworn, deposes and saith—After his arrival at the port of Saint Pierre's, his vessel was taken from him by the authority there—That while the vessel was detained, he, this deponent, and part of his people, lived on shore—That after the condem-
nation

nation and sale of his vessel, he, this deponent, became the purchaser. And this deponent further saith, that the remainder of his crew, consisting of his mate and two men, were employed, during part of the time aforesaid, in the business of droguing, in the employ of the government there—That on the return of the mate and the two men aforesaid, he, this deponent, took possession of the said sloop *Iris*, and carried his whole crew on board, and that afterwards, within three days, *one of the men*, named John Wilson, was taken sick of a fever, and within a few hours was carried on shore, where he died, and was buried in the *clothes which he wore during his sickness, no article whereof was returned on board the Iris*. And this deponent further saith, that on setting sail, his crew, including passengers, to the best of this deponent's recollection, consisted of fifteen persons—That the chest of the deceased John Wilson was opened by this deponent and his mate, Leverett Stevens, *twice*, during the passage, and that it contained a soldier's regimental coat, a great coat, several jackets and trowsers, and a few other things, *none of which the said John Wilson wore during his illness*. And this deponent further saith, that during the passage from Saint Pierre's to New-York, and from New-York to New-Haven, the whole of the persons on board enjoyed good health, and no fever or other distemper prevailed among them:

And

And this deponent further saith, that after his arrival with a healthy crew at New Haven, Elijah Austin, the person in whose employ the deponent sailed, was present when this deponent opened the chest containing the effects of the said John Wilson, in a certain store where they had been carried from the vessel several days before; and that the said Elijah Austin *before* the opening of the said chest, and *before* his departure for the city of New York, to which he was then about to go, complained of a head-ache, and said he must proceed nevertheless to New York. And further this deponent saith not.

DANIEL TRUEMAN.

The foregoing deposition was sworn to before me this 16th of November, 1798.

GABRIEL FURMAN, *Alderman.*

But as direct contradictions to the assertions contained in the above depositions, the following affidavits should be perused with attention, as they carry with them the weight of respectable testimony, and have not been, as far as we know, controverted. The first is from colonel William Lyon, the cashier of the New Haven bank, and a gentleman against whom no one will prefer the smallest objection.

New Haven, Sept. 27, 1803.

I, William Lyon, of said New Haven, declare and testify, that A. D. 1794, and soon after the melancholy death of Elijah Austin, formerly of this city, merchant, Henry Daggett and Abraham Bishop, Esqrs. and myself were appointed appraisers of the estate of the deceased, and having opened his store on Union wharf, which had been shut from the time of his death, I saw a certain chest in the garret, which I was told was lately owned by John Wilson, a seaman in the said Austin's vessel, Daniel Truman, master, (this Wilson died at Martinique with the plague or Yellow Fever the last voyage of said vessel) and that his clothes were shut up in the said chest.

Several persons mentioned to me their fears of infection from the chest, and requested me to make a motion at the next court of common council that the chest might be removed or destroyed. About this time I was at the shop of Samuel Cleveland, a joiner; he expressed his fears. His son, Ralph Cleveland, a boy of 12 or 14 years of age, being at work in the shop informed me that he was with Mr. Truman this voyage, *had the fever himself in the same room with Wilson*, was present when Wilson died, and that John Brandigan, another seaman
 belonging

belonging to the same vessel, took a blanket and some other clothes from the corpse and carried them on board the vessel, and put them in Wilson's chest, where he, the said Ralph, often saw them.

A court of common council was held on that or the succeeding day, after my conversation with Cleveland, when I mentioned the complaints I had heard, and made a motion that some order might be taken thereon. The court appointed Henry Daggett, and Nathan Beers, Esq. with myself, a committee, to oversee the removal and destruction of the chest. I procured *Leverett Stevens*, who had been mate of the vessel the last voyage, and *William Bayley*, to destroy the chest. They removed it by water, to the Oyster-point fields, in this city, and there *in full view of the committee*, broke open the chest, took out the contents *with a pole*, which were *an old dirty blanket*, a military coat, a *pair of dirty trowsers*, and some *other old clothes*, which were all burnt to ashes.

WILLIAM LYON.

New Haven County, ss.

New Haven, Sept. 30, A. D. 1803.

Personally appeared William Lyon, and made oath that the within deposition by him subscribed, was the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Sworn before me,

JOSEPH DARLING, Jus. Pacis.

We

We now subjoin the affidavit of Dr. Hotchkiss, a gentleman of strict integrity, and unimpeachable on the score of veracity.

I Obadiah Hotchkiss, jun. of New Haven, in New Haven county, of lawful age, do testify and say, that Daniel Truman, master of the sloop Iris, from the West-Indies, early in the month of June, 1794, in conversation, told me that while in the West-Indies, *all his men* had the Yellow Fever, that John Wilson was carried on shore, attended by a physician, and died; the remainder of his men he gave an emetic, and they all recovered. I further testify that *Leverett Stevens*, mate of the aforesaid sloop, to the best of my recollection the evening before the conversation with captain Truman, told me, that *himself and all the hands had the Yellow Fever* in the West-Indies, that John Wilson died, and further stated that *he* was cured by taking drinks that produced a copious sweat.

OBADIAH HOTCHKISS.

New Haven, 30th Sept. 1803.

New Haven County, ss.

New Haven, Sept. 30th, 1803.

Personally appeared Obadiah Hotchkiss, jun. and made oath that the above and foregoing deposition, by him subscribed, was the truth, and nothing but the truth.

Sworn before me,

JOSEPH DARLING, Jus. Pacis.

To these we add the declaration of Mr. Ives, received from Dr. Munson in a former letter, and to which he informs us Mr. Ives is ready to depose, but observes, that Mr. Ives's word will never be disputed where he is known. The following is his statement under his own hand.

“ I was requested by the faculty of this town to inquire into the particulars respecting capt. Truman's vessel, particularly with regard to the clothing which was in the chest of John Wilson, a mariner, who died in the West-Indies of the Yellow Fever. The facts I obtained were from Leverett Stevens, mate of the vessel. Stevens said that *the blanket which Wilson used when he was sick, and the clothes in which he died, he put into the chest, and locked it, and that it was not opened until it was opened in Austin's store, in New Haven.*

LEVI IVES.

The reader is now in possession of the counter testimony we have to produce. Dr. Munson observes, in the conclusion of his letter, inclosing the depositions, “ many strong corroborating circumstances might have been added, but my professional engagements are such at this juncture, as to prevent further researches, and some people who could testify in point are abroad.” But more is unnecessary; until the testimony of the above gentlemen can be shaken, and their characters destroyed,
which

which we feel warranted in saying never can be done, there can be but one opinion on this subject. We can have no scruple then to say, IT IS NOT TRUE—that “there was no blanket in the chest,” for *Ralph Cleveland saw John Brandigan take Wilson’s “blanket and carry it on board the vessel, and put it in Wilson’s chest,”* and Col. Lyon saw Leverett Stevens himself, and William Bayley, *take out of the chest, by means of a pole, an old dirty blanket, and burn it—* and finally, this Leverett Stevens told Mr. Ives, that the “*blanket which Wilson used when he was sick he put into his chest and locked it.* IT IS NOT TRUE—that “Wilson was buried with his infected clothes on,” for *Ralph Cleveland saw the clothes from the corpse carried on board the vessel and put in the chest, and Stevens told Mr. Ives, expressly, that he put the clothes, in which Wilson died, into his chest.* IT IS NOT TRUE—that *the sloop had never any infected persons on board,* for *Ralph Cleveland told Col. Lyon, that he himself had the fever; but more particularly Capt. Truman told Dr. Hotchkiss, that “while in the West-Indies, all his men had the Yellow Fever, and Leverett Stevens told him that he “himself, and all the hands, had the Yellow Fever in “the West-Indies.”* IT IS NOT TRUE—that “the chest contained only a new coat and new jackets and trowsers, which had never been worn,” for *Ralph Cleveland saw “other clothes,” besides the blanket, taken off the corpse by John Brandigan, and put into the chest, and Stevens and Bayley took out of the chest*

with

with a pole, a *pair of dirty trowsers*, and *some other old clothes*, and *burnt them*. Lastly, IT IS NOT TRUE—that “ the chest, with its contents, were burnt *unexamined*, for, *in full view of the committee* [appointed by the court, and consisting of Henry Daggett, Nathan Beers and William Lyon, Esqrs.] *the chest was broken open, and the contents exposed before they were burnt, consisting of an old dirty blanket, a military coat, a pair of dirty trowsers, and some other old clothes.*” Finally, of all the allegations made by those who have engaged to investigate this affair, for the purpose of disproving the original statement made in 1796, NOT ONE SINGLE MATERIAL FACT IS TRUE. Thus we finish with the year 1794, at New Haven.

We are not disposed to press this subject very hard, nor is it our intention to mark out any one as guilty of subornation in procuring the two unhappy men to forswear themselves, but we cannot, in duty, refrain from making a short appeal to our fellow citizens on this statement of facts. What will they think of those who to support a system, pregnant with nothing but mischief, will go to such unheard-of, such unsuspected, such criminal lengths? And will it not inspire a just and salutary caution, how they implicitly receive the interested evidence of captains of vessels which have introduced pestilence and death among us.

Letter

Letter from Dr. James Stratton, to Dr. S. P. Griffitts.

Swedesborough, Dec. 31st, 1805.

DEAR SIR,

Your favour of the 10th instant, came duly to hand. In attempting an answer thereto, it may not be improper to state those facts relative to the Yellow Fever, which have come within my knowledge, in the different years, in which that disease has appeared in the city of Philadelphia. In doing this it will not be necessary to detail the particular symptoms, so much as the circumstances of its appearance—the situation of the places as it respects tide water, and the instances of its spreading.

In the year 1793, three cases only occurred within my notice, these were persons who had left the city; two of the cases proved fatal, but without any instance of its being communicated. In the year 1797, I saw seven cases, all these were inhabitants of this neighbourhood, five of them had been to Philadelphia; of these, four died: two cases of the disease being communicated, one died with all the distinguishing symptoms which accompany the most unfavourable cases, the other recovered. The first of the cases communicated, Thomas Humphries, was

was on tide-water; the other had been nurse to one who had died, at the distance of two or three miles from any tide.

The case of Thomas Humphries may, perhaps, merit a more particular detail. Peter Duffield, a waterman, had been to Philadelphia, and brought from thence a quantity of oakum, for graving his vessel. Thomas Humphries, and Charles Lack, carpenters, went to work on board the vessel; Duffield and Humphries slept on board: they were both taken ill on the 18th day of September. Duffield died on the 21st; Humphries died on the 22d of the same month. Duffield had been to the city, Humphries had not;—they were both employed in handling the same oakum, and perhaps received the infection from the same fomites.

In the year 1798, forty-two cases came within my notice. Of these, nineteen died; they were scattered over the country in different situations. Of these patients, some had removed from Philadelphia; others had been there on business; others again had removed from Wilmington, Delaware; and about fifteen of them had not been to either place. Of these latter, some, both of those that died, and of those who survived, exhibited the symptoms which are characteristic of the disease. As it would be difficult as well as tedious, to relate the

circumstances of all those cases where the disease might be supposed to have been communicated, from one person to another, or from the clothing of one person to another, I will mention only one case : Miss Sally Harding fled from Wilmington to the house of her uncle, captain William Peterfon, at a place called the Cove, on the Jersey shore, a mile or two above the mouth of Christiana Creek. About a week after leaving Wilmington, she was attacked with the Yellow Fever, but recovered ; her uncle, Mr. Peterfon, took the disease, was very ill ; he also recovered ; her nurse took the disease and died. Mr. Miller, a student in medicine, visited Miss Harding ; he took the disease and died.

In the year 1799, nine cases occurred within my notice ; seven died, two recovered. Of the nine cases, six were communicated. Some of these patients were at Carpenter's bridge, on Mantua Creek, and some on Oldman's Creek. The cases which occurred in the family of Mr. Joseph Stout, on Oldman's Creek, in the county of Salem, may perhaps be worth relating. A young man of his family, who followed the business of a shallop-man, from that Creek to Philadelphia, came home sick of the Yellow Fever, and died about the sixth day, in a state of extreme putrefaction ; his fingers, toes, and ears were black for two days previous to his death ; he discharged a black fluid from his stomach, with

with a force sufficient to carry it horizontally across a room. This man had been nursed by Mrs. Stout and her daughter, a young woman, who, about a week after his death, were attacked with the same symptoms, and both died on the sixth day. Several other persons in the same family were taken ill, but recovered. Mr. Stout's house is on the bank of the Creek, half a mile from any other dwelling.

There have been but a few cases in this part of the country since the year 1799, until the fall of the present year. The most of these were at Carpenter's bridge, on Mantua Creek, where there is a scattered village. The disease was introduced into this village by three men who were inhabitants thereof, and went to Philadelphia on business; and while there, doubting the existence of the disease, or its power to injure them, after charging themselves with spirituous liquor, wantonly went in search of the disease, into Southwark, and found some of its victims, and assisted in putting them in their coffins. They returned home and boasted of their prowess; about a week afterwards they were all taken ill, and all died about the sixth day. From these, the disease was communicated to a number of others; of whom I visited four persons; two died.

From

From the facts which have been stated, it may be observed, that the Yellow Fever has never appeared in this part of the country, except in those seasons, and when it had previously existed in Philadelphia; that there have been many instances of its being brought from Philadelphia to Jersey, and of its being communicated from the persons thus infected, to others. If the disease may be brought from Philadelphia into New Jersey, I see no difficulty in supposing it may be brought from some other place to Philadelphia.

This communication has been deferred by the pressure of business; but you will make proper allowance for circumstances of this kind, and may make such use thereof as you may think proper.

With sincere regard,

I am, dear Sir, your friend
and very humble servant,

JAMES STRATTON.

DR. S. P. GRIFFITTS.

An

Letter from Dr. John Stuart, of the island of Grenada, to Dr. David Hosack.

New York, Nov. 12, 1805.

DEAR SIR,

I have received your favour of this date, desiring information concerning the Fever which appeared, and proved so fatal, in Grenada, in March, 1793; I feel much disposed to comply with your request, but regret that my time will not allow me to do so in a manner satisfactory to myself; at all events, I hope you will make allowance for any inaccuracy I may commit, in referring to circumstances which took place so long as twelve years ago, especially as I am possessed of no memorandum respecting the disease, all my papers having been destroyed in the insurrection which occurred in that island, in 1795.

It may be necessary to premise, that I had been engaged in an extensive practice in the quarters of St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's, for 19 years previous to the period referred to. My place of residence was on the east side of the island, and on the confines of those two parishes, about 24 miles from St. George, the capital, and upwards of four miles from Grenville bay, the second harbour in the colony.

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The tract of country between my abode and the latter is flat, and the shore low and swampy ; it is consequently extremely unhealthy in the fall of the year ; I had become, of course, well acquainted with tertian fever, under its various forms of intermittent, remittent, and continued types. It is however worthy of remark, that I do not recollect an instance of an epidemic occurring among the white inhabitants in any part of the island, from January to July or August, previous to the year 1793.

My first acquaintance with the Fever in question was as follows : In the month of March of that year, I went one day on board the ship *Adventure*, then lying in Grenville harbour, to visit the carpenter, at that time under my charge, for a gun-shot wound in his hand. While there, captain Remington arrived from St. George's by sea : he had come round in a drogher, and had had heavy squalls, with rain, in his passage to windward. He then complained of being feverish, and seemed low-spirited ;— he had heat of skin, his pulse full and under 100, head-ache, pain in his back and limbs, and over his whole body ; these symptoms I imputed to cold caught in his passage up, and accordingly took eight ounces of blood from him, which, unexpectedly, neither exhibited the buffy coat, nor the coagulum any degree of contraction, nor consequent separation of serum.

ferum. He took an emetic of Ipecacuanha in the evening, and a dose of Glauber's salts the following morning. During three days I continued to visit him, his pulse did not exceed 100, nor was the heat of skin considerable; he took occasionally small doses of antimonial wine, with the addition of laudanum at bed-time, and made free use of tepid drinks. At the end of that time I was under the necessity of putting him in charge of a neighbouring practitioner, having a call to the other side of the island. On leaving him I certainly did not entertain any idea of his being in danger; I was, however, forcibly struck with, and could not well account for, an uncommon degree of despondency of mind, that was then present, and it was not possible to remove the impression that he was to die; nor was I the less surprised, on going to Grenville a few days thereafter, to be told of his death, and more especially to hear of that event having been preceded by hæmorrhage from his nose, stomach, mouth, and urinary bladder. On this occasion, while in conversation with some gentlemen on the fate of this unfortunate man, I could not help noticing the malignancy of the case, and the difference in the train of symptoms from what I had ever witnessed to take place in the worst case of our endemic fever. But a few minutes had elapsed when a gentleman arrived from St. George's; I had no sooner mentioned capt. R.'s death to him, and my surprise thereat, when he instantly replied, it was known

known to him, for that capt. R. had eat and slept on board the ship Hankey, during several days that he was in town. This was the first notice I had of such a vessel being in the colony, and therefore anxiously requested he would explain himself : this he did by saying, that the Hankey, capt. Cox, had arrived some time before, after carrying a number of settlers from England to the coast of Africa, where she had remained for some months ; and that during her stay the greater part of those unfortunate people had been carried off by fever ; and concluded by saying, that there was at that time a cursed infection lurking on board of her ; that the mate of the ship Baillies had died or was dying, and several other seamen were very ill, when he left town. The melancholy scene that afterwards followed at St. George's, in 1793 and 1794, is well and amply described by my respectable friend Dr. Chisholm, in his well-known work on West India diseases.

As to the *character* of this fever, my experience has fully satisfied me, that it was specifically distinct from every form of the indigenous, bilious remittent, which I had ever observed. *Because* it appeared at a season of the year which I had always found healthy during a period of twelve years I had resided in the colony. *Because* it did not particularly appear in those situations where bilious remittent

remittent fever usually prevailed during the unhealthy season of the year. *Because* there was an evident difference in the character and type of the two diseases; there was a greater despondency of mind in this fever, the eyes were more muddy and inflamed, there was commonly a deep-seated pain in the eye-sockets, the motion of the eye-balls was attended with uneasiness; the pain in the back and limbs was greater than in bilious fever; the vomiting was not of so violent and straining a nature, nor were there such evacuations of bilious matter. The black vomit* generally occurred at an early period; the yellowness was of a dingy hue, not of the real icteric tinge accompanying cases of bilious fever. The delirium was, in many instances, of a peculiar nature, and much resembling a state of intoxication; hæmorrhage was more frequent, particularly by urine and from the stomach and intestines. Patients on several occasions made exertions not long before death that I *never* witnessed in bilious fever. I have known a patient get up, dress himself, and walk about his chamber, a very short time before his death. Medical practitioners, before being well acquainted with the deceitful nature of the disease, not unfrequently declared their patients out of danger,

* Which I consider as one of the characteristics of this disease.

ger, when the fatal issue took place an hour or two after their departure. *Because* I never knew this fever terminate within a few weeks in intermittent, as tertian, remittent or bilious fever commonly does. *Because* the degree of weakness produced by the fever is greater, and the recovery of flesh and strength more gradual and slow in this than in bilious fever. *Because* I did not find the same mode of treatment successful in both cases of fever; for the early and bold and free use of bark, which I have found very generally to answer in bilious fever, seemed to aggravate this fever and to hasten the fatal issue.

That this fever was contagious I concluded from the manner in which it broke out and spread. It first appeared in two or three vessels that had a communication with the Hankey, and from those sources it gradually extended itself to other vessels in the harbour; but not to all; for, where attention was paid to prohibit communication with infected ships, such vessels escaped. After some time it got on shore, both into town and in the garrison. There is also reason to think that it was carried from thence to the adjoining islands, as it appeared at most of those to windward within two months of its breaking out at Grenada; and some time thereafter, it shewed itself at Jamaica, and ultimately I believe in September at Philadelphia.

Its contagious nature also appeared *from* many instances of men in 1793 and 1794 going to St. George's on business, and being attacked a few days after their return to the country with this fever, to several of whom it proved fatal; but I must observe that I met with no instance in the country, of the disease being communicated to others, either visitors or attendants. It is indeed true that every attention was paid to keep the chamber of the sick well aired; their linen frequently shifted; and when a fatal issue took place, every article of wearing apparel and bedding was commonly destroyed.

From knowing several instances of young men who got wounded in 1795 and 1796, having been sent for convenience and proper attendance to town, who during their cure were attacked by this cruel disease, and on some occasions fell a sacrifice thereto.

From instances occurring of people expressing a consciousness of the time when they received the contagion, while visiting acquaintances labouring under the disease.

From a thorough belief in the minds of all the medical gentlemen in Grenada, who witnessed the disease, that it was so: let it be observed, however, that one of the most respectable practitioners in St. George's, and a particular acquaintance of my own, would not allow at *first*, that it was contagious.

And

And lastly, *from* a full conviction that I, as well as some other medical gentlemen, contracted the disease in our attendance on the sick.

Respecting the propagation of this fever, I am decidedly of opinion that it was occasioned by visiting infected apartments, or by the near approach to, or contact with people labouring under it. There is every probability also that the infection was brought to Grenada by the Hankey; * but what its nature was, whether it originated on board in consequence of the number of sick crowded together, while labouring under the endemic of a warm climate, and that in a sultry, moist atmosphere, is a question I do not take upon myself to answer.

That vegetable and animal matter in a state of putrefaction does produce disease, is not to be denied; but that vegetable matter only in a state of corruption is on many occasions harmless, is evident, from the offensive heaps of cotton seed, and the pulpy covering of the coffee berry which are daily to be met with in Demarara, without being considered as a cause of fever; nor should this circumstance be omitted, that when fever does prevail, it is at a season when those causes do not act powerfully.

Yours, &c.

JOHN STEWART.

DR. DAVID HOSACK.

* It is important to note here, that when the Hankey returned to Great Britain, she was immediately ordered by the Board of Health to be burnt.

An account of the rise and progress of the Fever, which prevailed in Southwark, during part of the Summer and Autumn of the present year, 1805. By Doct^r WILLIAM CURRIE.

The Yellow Fever made its first appearance this year, in the family of Samuel Crisman, who kept a retail grocery store at the north-east corner of Catharine and Water streets, in the district of Southwark, about midway between the New Market and the Swedes-church, a situation remarkably clean, open and airy.

A young man, by the name of Peter Young, and two boys, the one twelve, and the other sixteen years of age, in the service of Samuel Crisman, were the first that were attacked by the disease.

Peter Young was attacked with very violent feverish symptoms, on Saturday the 27th of July, soon after breakfast, while at work in a covered shop adjoining his employer's house; and the two boys the day following, one of them while on his way to his parents in the Northern Liberties.

The youngest boy, whose name is Tobias Smith, informed John North's son, who resided on the wharf back of Crisman's, the Sunday before he was
taken

taken ill, that he had been down to the Lazaretto a few days before; this, Mr. North's son stated in the presence of Mrs. Rees and the subscriber, and has since qualified to the fact.

Peter Young also acknowledged, in the presence of Ebenezer Ferguson, Esq. president of the board of health, Mr. George Budd, and Doctor Reynolds, on his death-bed, (when his mind was in a situation which could admit no interest or passion to interfere with truth,) that he had made a visit to the quarantine station, the Sunday before he was taken ill.

In confirmation of this, Samuel Crisman has stated to Mr. Ferguson and the subscriber, more than once, that, the Sunday before Peter Young was attacked with the Fever, he told him, he had procured a boat to go to the Lazaretto to see his brother, and that he dissuaded him from going, as he did not believe his brother was come.—“Peter Young and the boy, however, he believes, did go down the river, but returned home about sunset.” Crisman also states, that Peter Young and more than twenty other persons, went with him down the river, to Thompson's point, on the Jersey shore, below the Lazaretto, the Sunday before he and the boy went down; but solemnly declares,
that

that none of them went near any vessel under quarantine that day.

Mr. Crisman and the widow of Peter Young also state, that the said Young and the youngest boy, had both engaged to go with capt. Wickam, in the brig Ceres, to St. Jago de Cuba, a short time before they were taken sick, and were to have sailed the Sunday the boys were taken ill. According to Crisman's account, a few days before the sickness occurred in his house, three persons who had deserted from one of the infected vessels at the Lazaretto, arrived at Catharine street wharf, with a boat which they had stolen from a shallop, which lay a short distance from the vessel ; and that while he went with the owner of the boat to take out a warrant to apprehend them, they put a chest on board an oyster-boat, and made their escape.

It is probable, from reference to the letters of the Lazaretto physician, that the persons mentioned by Mr. Crisman belonged to the brig Ann Jane, from New Orleans, as they deserted about the 24th ; and though immediately advertised, and a reward offered by the board of health, as well as by the mayor of New York, for apprehending them, they were never detected.

John

John North, who kept tavern back of Crisman's on Catharine street wharf, informed the writer of this account, "that a man by the name of John Davis, from Indian River, arrived at Catharine street wharf very ill, five or six days before the sickness commenced at Crisman's; that during his illness, not expecting it was of a dangerous nature, he permitted him to lodge at his house; but finding him become very ill, with a pain in his side and fever, he obtained an order from the guardians of the poor to send him to the Bettering-house; to which, he was taken two days before the removal of the sick persons from Crisman's, and there died in a few days." He was opened, and a large abscess discovered in his liver; but none of the appearances usually observed in persons that have died of the Yellow Fever, excepting yellowness of his skin and eyes.

A quantity of putrid oysters had been thrown upon the north side of Catharine street wharf, a little way below North's front door, about ten days before the three persons at Crisman's were taken ill; but were put on board of the sloop Independence, with a quantity of dry shells collected for the purpose, and sent to Richmond in Virginia, on the 30th of July, the same day that the sick persons were sent from Crisman's to the Lazaretto. The master and crew were well at the time of their leaving Catharine street wharf, and, according to a certificate

tificate in possession of the subscriber, signed by Mr. John Summers of this city, owner of the sloop ; they have remained in perfect health ever since.

At the time Peter Young and Tobias Smith went to the Lazaretto, several vessels from different ports of the West-India islands, particularly from Havana, Point Petre, Cape Francois, and St. Thomas's were performing quarantine there, on account of having had sickness and deaths by the Yellow Fever on board ; and among others, the schooner Nancy, William Lake, master, from the city of St. Domingo, with wounded French officers and soldiers, which had been put on board from a military hospital : soon after which, the whole of the crew, excepting two, had been taken ill with the Yellow Fever ; one died at sea after three days sickness, and the captain and one of the seamen were landed at the Lazaretto, dangerously ill, on the 12th of July, according to the bill of inquiry, and an extract from the logbook of the vessel.

As soon as the board of health received intelligence of the situation of Crisman's family, which was on the 30th of July, they immediately sent the sick persons to the Lazaretto, where Peter Young, who became extremely yellow, and had constant hæmorrhages from his nose and mouth, and other symptoms of malignity, died on the 3d of August.

The two boys, one of whom had remained at his father's, recovered.

The day after the removal of the sick persons from Crisman's, he retired to the country with his family; and his house was cleaned and ventilated.

From Saturday the 27th of July, the day Peter Young was attacked with the Yellow Fever, no other case of Fever occurred in that neighbourhood, or in any other part of Southwark, excepting the two boys residing in the same house, that were taken ill the day after him, until Friday, the 2d of August, and then Mrs. Skillinger, (who lived next door to Crisman's and who had been present when the sick persons, with their beds, were taken to the boat,) was the next person attacked with the disease; Mrs. Ellis, who lived in the house adjoining Mrs. Skillinger's, and had long been in an infirm state of health, was taken ill on the 4th, and died on the 7th of August.

Mr. Caleb Bickham's wife, who lived in the house adjoining Mrs. Ellis's, and her daughter, Mrs. Henry, were taken with the Fever in a milder form, about the same time with, or very soon after, Mrs. Ellis. Mr. Bickham's son Caleb, was attacked with great violence on the 9th, and died with symptoms of great malignity, on the 17th. During

ing the illness of young Mr. Bickham, a young woman who lived in the same house, had an attack of the Fever, but was confined to bed only a few hours.

Samuel Crifman, who had returned to his house with his family, and a young man whom he had hired in the Northern Liberties, on the 5th of August, was attacked with the Fever on the 8th; the young man on the 9th; and Mrs. Crifman, after returning from her mother's funeral in the country, on the 13th. The latter died with the black vomit on the 18th. Crifman and the young man recovered, though Crifman had a severe relapse.

Christiana Kuchman, who had not been a year from Germany, and resided on the east side of Front, a few doors below Almond street, was attacked with the Fever the same day as young Mr. Bickham; and her husband, who had returned from a fatiguing journey the day before she was taken ill, was attacked with violent symptoms on the 12th. He died on the 16th, and she on the 18th.

Daniel Kelley, a stevedore, in an alley, a short distance above Crifman's, near the water, was attacked on the 12th, and died on the 20th. Two of Mrs. Skillinger's daughters were also taken sick soon after her recovery.

No other case of fever occurred in that neighbourhood, from the time of the attack of the persons last mentioned, till the 15th; when the following persons were attacked, viz. Mrs. Goe's niece, who lived in the same house with Mrs. Ellis, and next door to Mr. Bickham's; Thomas Eldridge, a journeyman ship-carpenter, who lodged at North's tavern, on Catharine street wharf; Mrs. Calagan, in an alley a little way above Crisman's, on the opposite side of the street; and Nancy Hog, at Mr. Robinson's, in Catharine, near Water street: and on the 17th, Mr. Robinson's boy, Mr. Hozey's daughter, Jonathan Cogle's daughter, and Mrs. Rickart, all a short distance below Crisman's.

Benjamin Thomas's family, who lived between Crisman's and the three last mentioned families, escaped the disease two weeks longer; after which they suffered severely, six or seven having sickened in succession, and two died.

Mrs. Vanfant, who lived in an alley, in Christian street, near Water street, was attacked on the 18th, and lived only two days. Thomas Mulford, who lived in Front, below Christian street, but worked in a mast-yard adjoining the alley where Kelley lay ill, was also attacked on the 18th; and Priscilla French, immediately after moving from the neighbourhood

bourhood of Crisman's into Mary street, on the 19th.

Mrs. Maul, who lived two doors below Mr. Hozey's, was taken ill on the 22d; and a girl and boy in the same house, on the 28th.

Jane Fulmer, who lived near to, and had visited Kuchman's wife, during her illness, was attacked on the 20th; and Mrs. Hay's little daughter in the same house, and Mr. Dow's son; a little bound girl, and a lodger named Nicholas Oke, in the house front of Fulmer's, on the 26th or 27th. From the 20th or 22d, the disease appeared again to make another pause, for five or six days, till a sufficient time had elapsed for the contagion to operate on those who had been exposed to its influence—after which the number of fresh cases became greater than before.

Six days after the attack of Mrs. Calagan, Mr. Gartley's little daughter, in the house front of Calagan's, and Hugh M'Guire's daughter, on the opposite side of the alley, which is very narrow, were attacked with the Fever; and several other persons employed in M'Guire's family soon after, in succession. Mr. Merrit's little son, and Mrs. Yoman, who resided within two or three doors of Calagan's, were

were taken ill on the 28th. No person was attacked with the disease in Christian street, for six or seven days after the death of Mrs. Vanfant; Mrs. Nail, and Mrs. Marfh's girl, who lived near her, were the next attacked in that neighbourhood; then Mr. Strembeck's daughter, next house to Nail's; and a few days later, the disease made its appearance in several other families in that neighbourhood.

In this manner, the disease proceeded in every neighbourhood where it gained admission, the number of patients increasing perceptibly every five or six days, and decreasing in the intervals, at first with great regularity; but after it had made farther progress, and the number of patients had become numerous in different neighbourhoods, this regularity was not so observable.

From the preceding detail, which the subscriber knows to be substantially correct, it appears evident, especially when compared with the manner in which the disease commenced and proceeded in former years, that it was introduced into Southwark, the present year, by the persons who first sickened at Samuel Crisman's, and that those persons received the infection from some vessel at the Lazaretto, which, from trusting to the care and vigilance of the
 people

people of the revenue boat, stationed there to prevent smuggling, had not been sufficiently guarded by the inspectors of the health office.

The confession of the persons first attacked with the disease, and the length of time that elapsed after their attack, before any other case of malignant fever occurred, and then their nearest neighbours being the next that were attacked, not only renders it highly probable, but, in my opinion, establishes the fact with absolute certainty.

It is also evident, from the dates of the subsequent cases, that the disease was propagated in the same manner as diseases universally acknowledged to be contagious are always propagated, and not like a disease derived from noxious effluvia diffused in the atmosphere, to numbers in different directions at the same time; nor like a disease, occasioned by foul air, proceeding from a particular source, which ceases to spread, and even to exist, in a few days after the source from which the foul air proceeds, has been removed or corrected.

If, therefore, the disease had originated from the exhalations of the putrid oysters which had been thrown upon Catharine street wharf, and which were removed on the 30th of July, it would have
 ceased

ceased from spreading, and even from existing, in a few days after the removal of the putrid oysters, and not have continued its desolating ravages for nearly three months.

The disease also differed materially in the violence of its symptoms, the period of its crisis, and in the manner of its termination, from any disease which has ever been known to originate from the impure air of a populous city, in any part of the world, or from the exhalations of the most foul and insalubrious marsh.

The disease, as heretofore, was extinguished immediately after the appearance of black frost;—whereas cases of bilious fever, are sometimes observed to occur sporadically till after the middle of winter, a circumstance which, as observed by Dr. Bowen of Providence, proves that the Yellow fever and the bilious fever are not different grades of the same disease, as the lower grades would be earlier and more certainly extinguished than the higher grades.

Several convincing proofs that the disease was propagated by contagion, in families who resided in situations too remote to be affected by the impurity of the air of the neighbourhood where the disease made its first appearance, if any such impurity existed,

existed, came under the notice of the subscriber this year as well as every year that the disease has occurred in Philadelphia. The following are a few which occurred the present year.

Moses Allen, a Pilot, from Port Penn, arrived at his daughter's, in Almond above Front street, about the middle of September, without stopping at any other house on his way. His wife was then dangerously ill with the Yellow Fever. He assisted her in and out of bed; she died on the second day after his arrival. On the sixth day after her decease he was attacked with the fever and died in a few days.

A young man, apprentice to Capt. George, was taken ill with the Yellow Fever at Mrs. Biddle's in Front nearly opposite Union street, and was dangerously ill several days; was attended by Mrs. Biddle and her niece, and visited without reserve by several persons boarding in the same house. In about a week after his recovery, which was protracted longer than usual, Mrs. Biddle and her niece were attacked with the disease, and recovered with great difficulty; during their illness two of the lodgers also were attacked with the disease. Previously to the time Capt. George's apprentice became ill, no case of fever, excepting the wife of an oyster-man in a cellar several doors higher up, had occur-
than

red in that neighbourhood, nor any other for more than two weeks after, excepting one person in the adjoining house, in the service of Mr. G. Latimer.

Mrs. Cheefman, after nursing Mr. Castle in Front near Shippen street, a neighbourhood where no other person at that time was sick, returned to her house in Stamper's alley, was taken ill a few days after her return, and died with black vomit. She assured the subscriber, when she despaired of her recovery, that she had seen no sick person excepting Mr. Castle, for many weeks, and had been in no house where any sick person had been, for several days before she went to nurse him.

Mrs. Derbyshire, in Front between South and Lombard streets, who attended a boy that was ill with the fever in the family, was taken ill herself, nine days after the recovery of the boy.

Mrs. Philips and her daughter Barbara, who lived in Water street between Almond and Catharine streets, were taken ill with the fever on the 27th of August, and died on the 3d of September. Two of Mrs. Philips's married daughters and their husbands, sickened soon after in succession. Two of these died; and the husband of one of them in a delirious paroxysm, threw himself out of the window and was killed.

One

One of Mrs. Houseman's daughters, and a young man who resided in a clean airy house, in Second below Christian street, entirely detached from every other house, were taken ill about the middle of September. Soon after their recovery, the mother and her other daughter, who had nursed them, and who had not been in any other infected house from the time the two first were taken ill, were both attacked with the fever in less than a week after their recovery.

Mrs. Champness, in Pine street between Second and Third streets, assured the subscriber, when sensible that she was past recovery, that she had seen no person with any kind of disease for many weeks, and had not been in any part of Southwark; but had employed a young woman who had just left a family where some persons had been sick, to do some work for her, soon after which she was taken ill.

Mrs. Champness died a day or two after giving this account, with decided symptoms of Yellow Fever.

WILLIAM CURRIE.

December 16th, 1805.

Published by order of the College,

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Attest.

THOMAS T. HEWSON, *Secretary.*

January 7th, 1806.

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