

is carried in *things*, and therefore clean cars were sent out to meet all incoming trains, and baggage was thoroughly fumigated, and the garments worn by the incomers were also changed and disinfected. True, some of them were already bringing the germs of the disease in their persons, and would probably die; but guided by the teachings of Dr. Henry Fraser Campbell, of Augusta, Ga., an eminent surgeon and practitioner, and a man of extended experience in yellow fever, the authorities of Nashville planted themselves on scientific principles and defied the coming storm. He said:

"Let as strict a quarantine be applied to cars as could possibly be applied to boats, ships and other means of transportation in ports; let them be met at least twenty miles from towns by fresh cars for passengers and freight, cars not upholstered and with wooden seats."

This was an utterance of twenty-two years ago, before the *microbe* had come, to unveil a thousand mysteries. He continued:

"The yellow-fever subject is laboring under the dire effects of a poison, and thousands of observations and centuries of experience have demonstrated that he can no more communicate his disease than can the subject poisoned with strychnin communicate the frightful tetanus to his friend or his nurse. As in the one instance the strychnin itself is required to produce another case, so in yellow fever a fresh supply of 'disease germs' are required to produce 'the hæmigastric death'; these elements of disease, many observations have convinced us, are transported in the cars arriving from infected ports, retaining their virulence through hundreds of miles of pure country air."

The next humane provision made was to establish a hospital. A large house about a mile from the corporation limits was fitted with all necessary furniture and appliances, a medical staff was engaged, as were also Sisters of Charity for nurses. At seven o'clock on the evening of September 7th the first application was made for admission, and one hour later all the attendants, from resident physician down to cook, were in their appointed places. On October 29th the epidemic ceased; but in the meantime twenty persons had been taken to the hospital, several of them already suffering from the disease acquired in places where it was rife; of these nine recovered and eleven died, and there were four deaths in scattered parts of the city of persons who, having escaped the vigilance of the inspectors, had taken refuge with relatives in Nashville.. The hospital was duly closed when no longer needed, and it had proved itself what Nashville people called it—a *safety-valve* for the fears of the city. In contrast with towns surrounded by shotgun quarantine the streets were thronged with strangers, and tho business to the Southwest was checked by the epidemic and local embargoes, Nashville transacted more than its usual amount of business; and tho it had spent large sums in cleaning the slums and clearing out the channels of streams that served as sewers, it had not to pay for one of the most costly of quarantines; for, as that city is the radiating point of many railroads and turnpikes, it would have required an armed picket of resolute men covering a circuit of nineteen miles. Placing men seventy-five feet apart and allowing for three shifts in the twenty-four hours, it would have required 4,462 men—448 officers, and extra men for sickness, etc., 669, making in all 5,131. Their support and pay from August 20th—the time of first alarm—would have been not less than \$300,000.

Now, when the epidemic of the last summer and autumn is investigated by a legislative committee, it is found that the disease was brought late in April by a family, who had been staying in Guatemala, to Ocean Springs—a coast town of Mississippi. Their baggage was not disinfected, and on the day after their arrival one of the family fell sick of the fever, within a few days the fever spread; but there seems to have been great apathy in learning its real character, for it was not diagnosed as genuine yellow fever till September.

The quarantines of the Gulf States against the West Indies and Central America go into effect May 1st, and this fever had gained a foothold and much headway by that time, and the epidemic of 1878 was brought in by the steamer "Emily B. Souder," in the same way, in March.. It has thoroughly penetrated the Legislative Committee that there ought to be uniform quarantine laws for all of the Gulf States; and it may yet be given them to perceive that, as disease pays no attention to State lines, we shall not be thoroughly protected till a National Quarantine embraces all our coasts in its protecting arms.

Sanitary.

The Yellow-Fever Epidemics of 1878—1898.

WITH the new light thrown upon the causation and propagation of the communicable diseases by the ascertained facts of bacteriology, it is interesting to go back and study such an experience as that of 1878, in Tennessee, when the business of Memphis was paralyzed, and thousands died; but in Nashville, which had no shotgun quarantine, as was ardently suggested by some, but made truly intelligent preparations to care for any who, choosing to come thither, were found to have been infected before they left their homes, and then threw wide open its doors.

Multitudes took refuge in it; and instead of the gloom of deserted streets and closed warehouses, there was unusual life and animation on its streets; and when the welcome frost came, and all panic and fear were over, the results demonstrated many things that had been disputed points before; and now that bacterial study has revealed *the* element of infection and its manner of multiplication, "wisdom is justified of her children."

The main features of the plan of action were founded on the belief that the infectious element in yellow fever