

Practical Points.

The following extract, translated from a circular issued by the Public Health Department of France, contains information in so succinct a form as to make it worthy of reprint.

The transmission of contagious diseases can be brought about in a direct manner by the immediate contact of a sick person with one who is well; or in an indirect manner, and in this latter case the germ requires some sort of vehicle; for example, water transmits the typhoid bacillus; clothing carries the germ of smallpox, etc.

I. Transmission by the Discharges from the Sick; by Certain Products of Secretion and by Infected Blood.

A. Diseases transmitted by faecal matter.

Typhoid fever. (Discharges from the bowels, urine and sputum.)

Dysentery. (Discharges from the bowels.)

Cholera and choleraic diseases. (Discharges from the bowels and vomited matters.)

B. Diseases transmitted by the secretions of the respiratory tract. (Expectoration, sputum, etc.)

Scarlet fever. (Secretions from the nose and throat. Fragments of the skin during desquamation can also transmit the disease.)

Measles. (Discharges secreted by the eyes, the nose, the pharynx, and the bronchi.)

Diphtheria and diphtheritic membrane. (Secretions from the nose, throat, etc.)

Pneumonic plague. (Sputum and the nasal secretions.)

Epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis. (The mucus from the cheeks and nose.)

Pulmonary tuberculosis. (Dried sputum and moist particles of sputum thrown out in coughing. Sometimes faecal matter and the products of suppuration.)

Whooping cough. (Expectoration.)

Pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia. (Sputum.)

Mumps. (Mucous discharges from the mouth and nose.)

C. Diseases transmitted by secretions, suppuration, and desquamation.

Smallpox. (Discharges from pustules and particularly the dried crusts.)

Scarlet fever. Fragments of the skin during desquamation. [See also above.]

Bubonic plague. (The matter from ulcerated or gangrenous pustules and from buboes.)

Puerperal infection. (Vaginal secretions, pus, lochia.)

Purulent ophthalmia in the newborn. (Pus from the child's eyes.)

Erysipelas. (Serous discharges and particles of skin detaching from the inflamed surfaces.)

Scurf or Head Scall. (Scales from the hairy scalp.)

Purulent conjunctivitis and granular ophthalmia. (The secretions from the eyes.)

D. Diseases transmitted by the infected blood of a patient. (Carried by certain small animals or parasites.)

Plague. (Rats, fleas.)

Yellow fever. (Mosquitoes.)

Exanthematic typhus. (Fleas, lice, bedbugs, etc.)

Probably leprosy. (Fleas, lice, spiders, etc.)

II. Transmission by Objects Which Have Been Soiled by Secretions or Discharges.

The patient's blood.

His clothing and linen. (Handkerchiefs and underwear and bed clothing.)

Toilet articles and household utensils. (Drinking glasses, cups, teaspoons, plates, sponges, etc. Playthings, books, pencils, pens, etc.)

Walls and furniture. (Bed, chairs, carpet, curtains, walls, doors, windows, etc.)

The seat and framework of latrines or water closets which have been soiled by the excrements of the patient.

Holes or ditches into which his discharges have been thrown.

Washwater used in the toilet or baths given the patient. From the rinsing of utensils used by him, from the cleansing of the room, from the washing of linen. Water from a stream, well, or cistern which has been infected through the slope of the ground or by the infiltration of the foregoing contaminated waters.

Certain foods eaten raw and accidentally soiled by water containing the disease germs—such as oysters and shellfish, milk, radishes, salads, etc.

Certain articles of merchandise soiled by blood. (Wool from animals afflicted with charbon.)

III. Transmission by Individuals.

Germs can be transmitted by individuals who have taken care of or visited the patient and by those who have handled or carried soiled articles, if these individuals are not careful to observe the proper measures of precaution and disinfection. They can also sometimes be transmitted by letters.

IV. Transmission by Certain Animals.

In certain diseases, such as the plague, yellow fever, exanthematic typhus, and probably leprosy, etc., the disease can be transmitted by certain animals, such as rats and insects—mosquitoes, fleas, lice, bedbugs, spiders, etc. Flies, which easily soil their trunks and their feet in excrements or sputum, play an undoubted part in the transmission of disease germs (typhoid, tuberculosis, cholera, etc.).

According to the *Charlotte Medical Journal*, by vaccinating in a dark room lighted only by a red lantern, a typical pustule develops,

but there is not the slightest inflammatory reaction. The arm is covered with a red bandage to exclude the chemical light rays. The method is advocated by Dr. Hugo Goldman, a Hungarian physician.

Red Light
and
Vaccination.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)