

**MEDICAL NOTES
AND ESSAYS;
FASCICULUS II**

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Medical notes and essays; Fasciculus II by Sir Peter Eade

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SIR PETER EADE

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Fasciculus II.

BY

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1891.

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Fasciculus II.

INFLUENZA IN EAST ANGLIA,

1847, 1878, 1890, 1891.

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INFLUENZA IN EAST ANGLIA,

1847 to 1891.*

INTRODUCTION.

THE great epidemic of Influenza, which during the past two years has passed over this country like a great wave, and has affected to a greater or less extent nearly every portion of England, has been proportionately experienced in this district of East Anglia.

As appears to have been usually the case, the disease travelled to us from the east, and, to quote Dr. Graves, it soon "like a cloud, overshadowed the whole country."

Writing in the late autumn of 1891, it is impossible to say whether the disease has disappeared entirely from this district, or whether the epidemic has simply "died down," as it did for several months in the autumn of last year and

* The contents of this little book deal almost exclusively with Influenza as observed in this district. The method of arrangement is mainly that adopted in the first Fasciculus of my "Notes and Essays" on "Diphtheria in Norfolk;" the present publication constituting Fasciculus II. of these Notes.

the spring of the present year, only to revive again, and again to rage with great severity during the second quarter of this year.* Probably at no time during this interval was Influenza really absent, but it certainly did not then exist as an epidemic. And although during this period of quiescence numerous ailments were met with, which chiefly affected the nerves and nerve centres, and which were often essentially sequelæ of the primary disorder, yet clearly a distinct interval existed, during which Influenza was practically absent.

This great epidemic invasion of Influenza began in this district in the two latter months of 1889, with a few isolated or scattered cases. It became severe and widely extended in January and February of 1890; and it continued with varying severity until May or June. A large number of the patients suffered afterwards from prolonged debility, and from various neurotic or neuralgic affections, many of which commenced after an interval of several weeks from the original seizure, and often when the thought of the illness had almost passed away. And so marked was this, that it was often difficult medically to account for the ailment complained of. And its nature was often only to be understood through the experience derived from the investigation of many similar cases.

From about July, 1890, to the end of that year, the Influenza was only evidenced by a few scattered cases; nor did it recrudescence in 1891 as a severe and epidemic affection until a much later period than in 1890. Indeed,

* Quite recently, local outbreaks of Influenza have been reported from several districts of Scotland and England.