Origin and Propagation of Yellow Fever.—The No. of the *Southern Med. and Surg. Journ.* for September contains an interesting paper by Dr. RICHARD D. ARNOLD, Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in Savannah Medical College, and a practitioner of very extensive experience and highly cultivated mind, "Upon the relations of Bilious and Yellow Fever"—prepared at the request of, and read before, the Medical Society of the State of Georgia, at its session held at Macon on the 8th of April, 1856.

Dr. Arnold discusses the two opinions—1st. Is yellow fever only a higher grade of bilious fever? 2d. Is yellow fever a disease *sui generis*? Dr. A. expresses his conviction of the truth of the latter. And in this belief Dr. A. accords with those who have had most experience, and have most faithfully studied the two diseases.

In regard to the origin and propagation of yellow fever, Dr. Arnold says: "I can bear my decided testimony that in no instance has there ever been the shadow of the shadow of proof, that it ever was imported into Savannah from abroad. On the contrary, the proof is positive that its first victims had had no communication, direct or indirect, with any source of infection. Moreover, when the British steamer Conway, which ran to the West Indies, touched at this port, I attended two cases of yellow fever from her, both of which died in the city, and yet no disease was propagated from them. In March, 1841 (as will be seen by my article quoted before) I brought a case from a ship from Demorara, and placed it in the hospital where the patient died. It is said that it can be propagated from abroad in a city, although most give up the point as to its contagion in the country. The whole experience of 1820 and 1854, when our citizens fled by hundreds into the country, and into neighbouring villages, towns, and cities, does not afford a single instance where the disease was spread by the fugitives. If, then, it is not propagated into the country, and into other cities by land routes, why is it supposed to be so fatal when it comes by sea? If one case can originate in a place, why not ten or twenty? Cases upon cases occurred in 1854, in which the patients had not been near a deceased subject. Isolation was no protection. The poison, whatever it may be, spread like a pall over the whole city, and covered in its embrace all who strayed, or entered its precincts; but a quarter of a mile beyond its limits the poison became innocuous. Such is fact. Let those who appeal to fancy, disprove it, or theorize upon it.

"Again: facts prove that yellow fever is a city disease. Exposure to swamp malaria, staying on a rice plantation in the summer, and in the fall before a frost, will produce a malignant and most fatal congestive bilious fever; but never, no, never yellow fever.

Appearance and Progress of Yellow Fever in the Port of New York in 1856.—Dr. H. D. BUCKLEY gives (*New York Medical Times*, Sept., 1856) the following interesting account of the appearance and progress of yellow fever in New York during the present year, up to the 29th of August, derived from documents furnished by Dr. E. Harris, Physician to the Marine Hospital at Staten Island, and Dr. A. B. Whiting, formerly health officer at Quarantine:—

"Up to the 25th of August of the present year, there had been admitted to the Marine Hospital at Quarantine, one hundred and thirty-three cases of yellow fever, and in addition to this number, eighteen cases had occurred among the permanent residents within the Quarantine inclosure.

"One case of the disease was received from Havana in the month of April; but no other cases were seen until June 18, when the bark Julia M. Mallock, from St. Jago de Cuba, arrived, with captain, first mate, and a passenger sick with the fever. On the 21st of the same month, the ship John H. Gliddon, from Havana, arrived, having a passenger and four seamen dangerously ill with it; and from the same vessel three other cases were subsequently received. These were all of a strongly-marked character; and some of them occurring many days after the ship's arrival, an infected condition of the vessel was naturally inferred, and the spread of the infection anticipated. From this ship the infection did spread, until at least twenty of the stowaways and lightermen who were engaged in unloading her, contracted the disease.

"On the 2d of July, one case of yellow fever was received from the *Lillas*; on the third, one from the *Eliza Jane*; and on the sixth the ship *Lady Franklin* arrived from Matanzas, having eight cases of it, and one seaman dead with it. Thus the prevalence of this malady seemed fairly inaugurated for the season.

"The infected vessels were principally freighted with sugar; though the *Jane H. Gliddon* had a portion of a cargo of rags, about thirty bales of which were subsequently stored in an open shed upon the U. S. Government Dock at Quarantine.

"On the 14th of July, a stevedore, who had been engaged in unloading these rags from the *Gliddon*, was admitted to the Marine Hospital, with black vomit. From this date, the fever rapidly spread among the labourers employed in unloading the infected vessels, whose cargoes were being lightered to the Atlantic Docks, Brooklyn. Thirty of these men, sick with the fever, have been conveyed to the Marine Hospital from the city, and from various parts of Staten Island.

"Cases of yellow fever have already been received from as many as thirty different vessels, arriving from the various West Indian ports. Besides these, a considerable number of cases have been admitted from the city, in which the source of the infection could not be completely made out, owing to the meribund or delirious condition of the patients; but in all cases, it has been ascertained that these persons had been freely exposed near the waterside in the lower wards of the city.

"As regards the special cause, or causes, which are believed to have introduced an endemic of yellow fever within the Quarantine inclosure, it seems highly probable that the infected goods which were landed upon the Government Dock, together with the close proximity of highly infected vessels lying at anchor in the stream, produced an infected state of the atmosphere in a narrow zone by the waterside. The physician of the Marine Hospital reports that this endemic appears to have ceased; and it is worthy of remark that the infected goods referred to, and the vessels near by, were long since removed.

"That our readers may see how the present compares with past years of the prevalence of yellow fever at the Quarantine establishment, we append the following statistical table, which has been prepared for another purpose by Dr. Harris, the physician of the Marine Hospital, and which he has kindly placed at our disposal:—

"A Tabular View of the Statistics of Yellow Fever as it has prevailed in the Port of New York, at the Marine Hospital, from 1799 to 1856.

	1799	1800	1801	1802	1803	1804	1805	1806	1807	1808	1809	1810	1815	1817	1818	1819	1820	1821	1822	1823	1824
Admitted	163	38	35	5	141	8	43	2	3	1	2	1	19	2	5	7	26	2	26	105	8
Discharged	87	17	19	3	72	3	18	2	...	...	...	...	12	2	1	3	7	...	10	58	3
Died	76	21	16	2	69	5	25	...	3	1	2	1	7	...	4	4	19	2	16	47	6

	1825	1826	1827	1828	1829	1830	1832	1833	1834	1835	1838	1839	1843	1844	1845	1846	1847	1848	1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855
Admitted	2	2	6	1	4	2	1	12	3	2	26	4	18	9	...	2	1	26	...	...	...	1	44	45	12
Discharged	1	...	2	1	4	1	...	16	2	...	18	...	15	7	...	2	1	14	...	...	...	...	30	25	7
Died	1	2	4	...	...	1	1	2	1	2	8	4	3	2	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	1	14	20	6

"The average mortality at this hospital will be found to have been about 35 per cent.

"The disease has also appeared this year on the southern end of Long Island, in that portion of King's County lying along the Narrows from Red Hook to

Fort Hamilton, the first case having appeared at Fort Hamilton, in the latter part of July, in the practice of Dr. Bailey, Surgeon of the Fort. It then appeared in the village of Fort Hamilton, and soon after at Yellow Hook and Gowanus, and finally at Red Hook; the latter place being in the confines of Brooklyn. According to the statistics by Dr. Whiting, which appear to have been collected with care, 73 cases and 35 deaths had occurred in this region up to the 22d of August, when the disease seemed to be decidedly on the decline. Dr. W. has not the least doubt that the disease is wholly and purely yellow fever, notwithstanding the doubts on this point which have been expressed by some. Most of the cases have occurred within a few rods of the shore, and none at a distance of more than fifty rods, a fact which seems fully to warrant the opinion that the disease owes its origin to infected vessels at Quarantine and Gravesend Bay. In no case has it been communicated to a person living out of this immediate locality. These vessels have been removed, and the disease has now almost ceased. Another account (newspaper) states that the disease first appeared on a bluff overlooking Gravesend Bay, where infected vessels were lying at anchor, and gives 58 as the number of deaths at Fort Hamilton and Yellow Hook. All accounts agree as to the origin of the disease from infected vessels at Quarantine.

"The weather during the last two weeks of July was very hot and dry, the mean average of the thermometer having been 85° and 81°. In the early part of August, there was a very heavy fall of rain, after which the heat was somewhat moderated; and during the last half of August, the weather was unusually cool, for the season, the mean average of the thermometer during the last two weeks having been 71° and 69°."

Report of the Cases of Yellow Fever which have occurred in Charleston and on shipboard in the Harbour during the Summer of 1856.—Dr. J. L. Dawson gives (*Charleston Medical Journal*, September, 1856), the following report of the cases of yellow fever which have occurred during the summer of 1856, up to the 25th of August, in the city of Charleston, and on shipboard in the harbour:—

"The first case of yellow fever reported this season occurred on the 14th of July, on board of the schooner *Exohango*, at Palmetto Wharf; the febrile paroxysm was short and the patient speedily recovered.

"On the 26th of July, Collens, ten days from Savannah, was seized with the usual symptoms of yellow fever; the fever lasted four days, with constant vomiting. He recovered slowly, and has had no return of fever up to this date (25th August). I have ascertained since his recovery that he passed a night on a farm, in the neighbourhood of the city, a few days before his attack. This being a malarial district may possibly have caused the fever; but as the fevers of this locality are generally of a remittent or intermittent type, and are apt to return without active treatment with quinine, which practice was not pursued in this case, I am inclined to the opinion that it should be recorded as a case of yellow fever. The patient resided at the west end of Tradd Street, and worked at the Standard office on East Bay.

"On the same day (26th) I was requested by the attending physician to visit Abbot, an Irishman, residing on King Street near Broad, he stating that he regarded it as a case of yellow fever. I concurred in his opinion, and advised the Mayor to have the case removed to the Lazaretto, which was done early the next morning. Abbott had passed through the severe epidemic of 1854. For a week before his attack he had been engaged loading the brig *St. Andrew*, from West Indies, then undergoing quarantine. The brig had no sickness on board, but had lost one or more of her men with yellow fever during her stay at Havana. Abbott recovered.

"On the 31st of July, Denner, residing at 125 East Bay (near Pinekey street), was taken with fever and sent to the Roper Hospital; it being ascertained that he had been loading the bark *Industria*, at quarantine, from West Indies, he was ordered to the Lazaretto by the Mayor, and died with black vomit on the 7th of August.

"The bark *Baldur*, at Brown's Wharf, arrived on the 22d of July from Bordeaux, after a passage of sixty days. On the 30th, three of her seamen were