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Infantile Paralysis Epidemic

This issue summarizes the First Polio Epidemic in the U.S. in 1894 in the State of Vermont; researched and presented by Jean C. Ross.

The first section introduces the life and work of Dr. Charles Solomon Caverly (1856-1918) whose primary focus was on public health in the State of Vermont, and a major figure in dealing with the disease.

In the following section Dr. Caverly shares his medical notes on the epidemic of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis which struck Rutland in early summer of 1894.

In his description he describes a variety of the 130 cases handled by various Doctors within the community and their outcome, including paralysis and death.

The article concludes with a number of agreements that were reached to handle outbreaks by way of providing special care and limiting social contact. A well documented account of a deadly disease that has fortunately been eliminated.