

moved by the application of a blister to my chest. *The quantity* of Seleniuretted Hydrogen Gas, which on each of these occasions entered into my organs of respiration, *was much smaller* than would have been required of any other inorganic substance whatever, to produce similar effects." *

As we have already stated, selenium is for the most part found in association with mineral sulfur. Selenium is also, like sulfur, a volcanic product. Now, though we can hardly imagine the possibility of the diffusion of selenium through the atmosphere in combination with hydrogen ; selenium may be so diffused, in some other form of combination, which may produce effects analogous to those of seleniuretted hydrogen. We do not mean to assert that the diffusion of any such substance really takes place. Our intention is merely to show, that a small quantity of an active ingredient, like selenium, is sufficient to contaminate the atmosphere over a wide extent of country. Such a substance being ejected from the crater of a volcano during an eruption, or through a crevice in the earth during an earthquake, may thus produce an epidemic disease. Nor is it improbable that many epidemics, particularly those of a catarrhal kind, have so originated.

* Annals of Philosophy, Old Series, vol. xiv. p. 101.