

The cases, hitherto done, even when the ends of the tibia and fibula have been removed, recovered after some time, and allowed of the patients walking very well.

Many years have elapsed since I stated that muscles might be cut across without, or with very little, inconvenience, resulting from their division. Mr. Stanley has shown in the boy I now bring before you, that tendons even may be cut across with little disability following. This boy having suffered an injury to the wrist, inflammation followed, with disease of the bones; and Mr. Stanley, instead of amputating the hand, made a flap on the back of it through the tendons. He removed seven of the small bones—all, indeed, except the trapezium supporting the thumb. The tendons reunited, and the boy has a remarkably good motion of the hand and fingers: proving the propriety of an operation which does so much credit to Mr. Stanley.

The astragalus may be also removed by a similar flap operation dividing the extensor tendons of the toes, commencing on the outside of the fibula, and being carried round in front, but not so far as to injure the tibialis anticus tendon, nor the anterior tibial artery and nerve; or, when the incision reaches the edge of the outer extensor, the whole of them are to be separated from the parts beneath, and drawn inwards, when the operation of removing the bone is to be completed, as in the former instance. But many surgeons believe that when tendons are forcibly drawn aside, after being separated from their attachments, they are apt to slough, and that their division would, in most cases, be less injurious. The other foot on the table, on which the operation has been done in this way, will also be preserved for reference. In neither operation has tendon, artery, vein, or nerve of any importance been divided.

In conclusion, I am desirous of drawing attention once more to the fact, that less regard is paid generally to gun-shot wounds of the foot in which balls lodge than is desirable. I am acquainted with some instances, from the late battles, in which a little more attention to the subject at the moment would have been highly conservative; and the wish to draw attention to this point has been one of the principal objects of this lecture, which will be forwarded to the surgeons of the various regiments serving in the East as soon as printed; when possibly other methods of operating may be devised for removing the astragalus less difficult in their performance, and more advantageous for the sufferers. I may add, that the other bones of the instep and foot should be treated in a similar manner when balls lodge in them, and which may be done much more readily.

THE SALT MONOPOLY IN INDIA THE ALLEGED CAUSE OF CHOLERA.

By GEORGE BEAMAN, M.D. London.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The extensive circulation of THE LANCET through the Three Presidencies of India impels me to beg the favour of your inserting in an early number the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to F. C. Brown, Esq., for many years a resident in the Madras Presidency.

I should add, that Mr. Brown's experience as to the power and influence of salt in most *effectually protecting* the human constitution against malignant cholera, after having tried it in India on a large scale, quite accords with my own, and I have authority to state, that Mr. Brown himself will feel obliged by your inserting the accompanying letter.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

King-street, Covent-garden, April 4th, 1855.

GEORGE BEAMAN.

[A LETTER ADDRESSED TO FRANCIS CARNAC BROWN, ESQ., OF TELLICHERRY, MADRAS PRESIDENCY.]

32, King-street, Covent-garden, March 26th, 1855.

SIR,—The important facts recited in the letter* you were kind enough to lend me demonstrate most forcibly the injustice and inhumanity of the duty on salt in the territories of the East India Company.

It is impossible for any man, reasoning without prejudice, to arrive at any other conclusion than that the salt tax in India, (salt being, in some parts, subject to a duty upon its manufactured cost of *three thousand* per cent. and upwards,) and the salt tax *alone*, is the primary cause of the *malignant*

* A Letter addressed to the Right Hon. Lord Broughton, when President of the Board of Control.

cholera—that most rapid, most painful, and most fatal of all known diseases.

Be it remembered, also, that we owe its introduction into Great Britain—nay, its introduction into all Europe and America, as well as many parts of Asia, entirely to its birth and never-ceasing existence in the East Indies. I am prepared to make such statements as will fully support this assertion, and carry conviction into the mind of every unprejudiced person; and I can prove, moreover, by a mass of evidence, that salt taken with the food in proper quantity is imperatively necessary for human existence *in health*, and that it is the only preventive against cholera poison that has ever been discovered.

Only reflect, that, since 1817, upwards of *one hundred millions* of human beings have been sacrificed to this terrible, this pestilential scourge; and again and again will Europe be subject to periodical visitations of the disease, while the hot-bed of its existence in India is supplied with modes of infection resulting from the inability of millions to obtain a necessary quantity of salt, to assist in the digestion of vegetable food, upon which a large bulk of the natives mainly subsist. Permit me here to introduce an illustration of the dire effects of a vegetable diet, *uncorrected by salt*. In Holland, formerly, a certain class of convicts were condemned (it being considered almost the severest punishment that could be inflicted) to be kept on bread alone, unmixed with salt. The effect is reported as most horrible: these wretched criminals are said to have been devoured by worms engendered in their own stomachs.

Referring again to the malignant cholera, is it not surprising that European kingdoms do not institute more searching inquiries respecting the cause of this destructive malady? Although heat may favour its propagation, it has nothing whatever to do with its generation, which is proved by the facts, that its first outbreak in this country was in December, 1831, and in Russia the malady spread as the winter advanced, and attacked Moscow at the end of November, when the thermometer stood at 16° below zero.

Cholera is not the effect of humidity arising from the evaporation of marshes, lakes, or rivers, for in Asia, where the evaporation is annually 70 inches, and in Russia but 20, it has been equally virulent; and in Muscat, surrounded by sandy deserts, and entirely deprived of water, excepting a supply from deep wells, it has been just as fatal and severe.

Vapour, electricity, atmospheric influence, appear in no way to control its progress.

The malady cannot be charged to crowding of cities or want of cleanliness, for Indian cities are not so thickly peopled as this metropolis, and the Indians are a cleanly race. In short, I believe cholera to be influenced by a certain condition of the atmosphere, acting upon bodies whose blood is prone to become disordered by absorption of the poison in the stomach, which organ, where salt is not taken with the food, is always in a languid condition; and there is, in my humble opinion, but one preventive (happily a safe and certain prophylactic)—the admixture of a moderate quantity of salt with the food as swallowed. Here I give the antidote, and for fuller particulars, I beg to refer you to the printed letter enclosed herewith, which I distribute amongst my friends and patients whenever an outbreak of cholera is threatened, and by attending to the directions recommended, I firmly believe, that during the last five-and-twenty years many thousands of valuable lives have been saved.

Apologizing for the length of this communication,

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

F. C. Brown, Esq., &c.

GEORGE BEAMAN.

STATEMENT EXPLANATORY

OF THE PRINCIPLES OF

A DRAUGHT OF A BILL

FOR

REGULATING THE MEDICAL PROFESSION.

It is now twenty-two years since an attempt was made to introduce into Parliament a Bill for Regulating the Practice of Medicine. Repeated attempts have been made since then; but all have failed, for one or more of the following reasons:—

1. Because too much was attempted at one time—viz., to regulate the practice of physicians, and surgeons, and general practitioners in one Bill.

2. Because it was contemplated to suppress some existing