

CURE OF CHOLERA WITH
SALT EMETICS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In THE LANCET for August 23rd, you invite medical men to communicate the results of their experience in the use of emetics of common salt in spasmodic cholera. The following rough notes of a case are at your service.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

TIMOTHY POLLOCK, M.R.C.S.

4, Gray's Inn Lane,
Sept. 2, 1834.

Case.—August 29, 1834. Benj. Stroud, of the *Horse-and-Groom Yard*, Holborn, was seized with the usual symptoms of spasmodic cholera, having suffered for several days previously from diarrhœa.—(The enumeration of symptoms we omit.—Ed. L.)—Let him have three tablespoonfuls of common house salt in half a pint of water immediately, and repeat the dose in twenty minutes should the cramps continue. Apply a mustard poultice over the stomach. Give an effervescing draught every hour, and iced water for common drink.

30th, 10 a.m. The salt produced smart vomiting as soon as swallowed. General appearance much improved; no return of the cramps; hands and surface generally much warmer; bowels much relaxed; vomiting troublesome during the night; pulse slower and fuller; tongue nearly clean. Continue the effervescing draughts. 8 p.m. The bowels still continue relaxed, but the evacuations are feculent. No vomiting.

31st. No complaint but of diarrhœa and weakness.

Sept. 1st. Out walking.

IPECACUANHA IN CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the 23rd Number of THE LANCET, published on Saturday, August the 23rd, I have just read an account of the return of the Asiatic or Sunderland cholera, amidst the crowded population of the metropolis. Some valuable remarks on temperance are subjoined, together with a strong recommendation of salt emetics. Having witnessed the efficacy of such emetics, I am disposed to think well of them, but decidedly much more favourably of a dose of *Ipecacuanha*, administered as an emetic. The surgeon attached to

our Cholera Hospital was very successful with this emetic, and Mr. Kennedy, whose able work on the cholera is well known, adopted the use of *Ipecacuanha* in our neighbourhood with the most favourable results.

The letter which he addressed to me on the subject of cholera enforces this treatment, and as this letter is not generally known I enclose a copy of it, and shall feel great pleasure in being informed that it has been made instrumental in checking, in any degree, through the blessing of God upon it, the progress of a disease, which, even in this enlightened country, is comparatively but little known. I am, Sir, your very obedient servant,

ROBERT GRAY,

Rector of Sunderland.

Sunderland, August 28, 1834.

"Sunderland, October 1st, 1832.

"DEAR SIR,—You did me the favour to ask my opinion of the best way to treat the symptoms which usually precede an attack of cholera, when proper medical advice cannot be procured; and I am happy to submit it.

"On account of the rapidity of cholera and the danger of delay, its popular treatment should be rendered as clear and simple as possible; and I would strenuously recommend the adoption of the following plan:—

"Cholera is almost always preceded by a *bowel complaint*, consisting of watery purging. For this bowel complaint, with or without other symptoms, an *emetic*, composed of half a drachm of *ipecacuanha*, should be taken without delay; and, after free vomiting from the emetic, a *bolus*, composed of five grains of calomel and two grains of cayenne pepper. In one or two hours after the use of the bolus, an ounce of castor oil should be taken, or a dose of jalap or rhubarb.

"If the symptoms are so severe as to confine the patient to bed, blood should be immediately drawn from the arm to the extent of twelve or fifteen ounces; and the body should be kept warm by blankets, and bottles of hot water rolled in flannel.

"After the above treatment, in case the watery purging be not abated, the calomel bolus and the dose of castor oil should be repeated daily, until *bile* appears in the discharges from the bowels, or until three or four boluses have been used.

"A patient threatened with cholera ought not, on any account, to take any laudanum, brandy, or other spirits; for, although their use checks the symptoms at the moment, it allows them in general to return in a short time with increased violence. I am, dear Sir, very faithfully, yours,

"JAMES KENNEDY.

"P.S. The doses of medicine which I have mentioned are only suited to adult patients. Children will require a smaller quantity, proportionate to their ages and constitutional strength."