

supply of subjects—obtained without offending the feelings of a single individual; and the public would be freed from that blood-thirsty, infernal race, so truly typified by the deeds of the *Burks*, the *Bishops*, and the *Williamsses*.

We shall resume the question.

AFFLICTING as is the pestilence which is now raging in the North of England, we are threatened with plagues in this metropolis likely to be still more destructive. We are given to understand that regular medical practitioners are even advertising their “specifics” for the cholera!

Now we take the earliest opportunities of cautioning the public against such murderous frauds. There is no *specific*;—there is no *remedy*; and, if there were, what must be thought of the conduct of that man, who, for the sake of a few paltry pounds, could persist in keeping the secret in his own possession? We ask, is such a being to be trusted? Are the pretensions of a brute to be recognised, who could coolly allege that he would not protect people from suffocation or drowning, unless rewarded for his exertions at a certain charge of half-a-crown or five shillings a head?

If the public suffer themselves to be deluded by the preposterous pretensions of knavish quacks, the poison of “specifics” will produce far greater devastation than the poison of all the *choleras* in the world.

THE CHOLERA AT SUNDERLAND.

The following is a tabular summary of the *Daily Reports* made since our last, up to the 6th instant.

On the 28th of November, there remained under treatment 32 cases.

	New Cases.	Deaths.	Recoveries.
Nov. 29th	12	7	5
30th	13	4	3
Dec. 1st	8	5	3
2nd	17	1	10
3rd	7	6	4
4th	5	2	6
5th	5	2	6
6th		6	4

From the commencement of the disease, on the 26th October, there have been, Cases 369, Deaths 119, Recoveries 219, Remaining under treatment, 33.

DR. STEVENS'S EXPERIMENTS ON THE BLOOD.

NOTE FROM DR. J. JOHNSON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In order to prevent any misconception of the statement which I made in the Westminster Medical Society, last Saturday night, relative to Dr. Stevens, I beg you will permit the following explanation to appear in your next number.

A few weeks ago, I received from Dr. Hackett, principal medical officer in Trinidad, but now in Antigua, a voluminous document, charging Dr. Stevens, among other things, with “misrepresentation of facts as they occurred at Trinidad, and as forming certain data for the support of his hypothesis respecting the blood in fever, &c. &c.,” and also with “garbling the letter of Mr. Greatrex, to suit his purposes.” This last charge, indeed, appears to be made by Mr. Greatrex himself, in an inclosed letter. Considering these melancholy disclosures and criminations to be detrimental and disgraceful to medical science, I had laid aside the idea of making the document public, till my attention was roused by the strong recommendations of a contemporary journal, and also of Dr. O’Shaughnessy to institute extensive trials of the alkaline* treatment in fevers and in cholera, based upon Dr. Stevens’s representations of the success which was said to attend such practice in Trinidad. I immediately saw that it would be culpable, if not criminal in me, any longer to withhold the document which I possessed, from the public; and hence my transmission of it to Dr. O’Shaughnessy, to prevent his leaning on Dr. Stevens’s statements in his forthcoming paper, and my verbal caution to the members of the Westminster Medical Society. If, Sir, in my *viva voce* observations on that occasion, my language should have conveyed any other meaning or impression than what the foregoing statement ought to convey, I hereby disclaim it. The paper shall be published in a week or two, *verbatim et literatim*; and an atten-

* Dr. Johnson is not quite correct in supposing that Dr. O’Shaughnessy recommended the trial of *alkaline* remedies. Dr. O’S alluded only to *highly oxygenated*, and by no means to *alkaline* salts.—Ed. L.

tive perusal of it convinces me, that a more important document, respecting the pathology and treatment of tropical fevers, and even of fevers in general, has never been submitted to the public.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,

JAMES JOHNSON.

Suffolk Place, Pall Mall,
5th December, 1831.

MR. YOUATT'S LECTURES ON VETERINARY
MEDICINE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the announcement of the intended publication of my Veterinary Lectures in your most valuable periodical, you have given me an honorary title to which I have no right. Veterinary medicine has but lately begun to assert her claim to public consideration, and that claim is not yet sufficiently recognised to obtain for her a *professor's chair*, even in that enlightened and liberal institution, the University of London.

I am only *lecturer* in that institution, an *appointed lecturer*, indeed; but I am proud of that title, for it enables me to plead, even there, and I am assured that I shall not ultimately plead in vain, the cause of my too much undervalued profession. You will now cause that plea to be heard by the medical world. I thank you.

Of the lectures I will only say, that they shall be honestly the same that are delivered in my class-room; except that some of the illustrations must be omitted in order that 120 lectures may be contained in the two volumes. I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

W. YOUATT.

3, Nassau-street, Middlesex
Hospital, 5th Dec. 1831.

* * The work of "condensation" will be a laborious one to Mr. YOUATT, but one of the greatest advantage to the readers of this journal. Arguments are not the less strong because they are put tersely; neither are facts the less forcible, because they are comprehended in a brief space. Mr. YOUATT, we venture to affirm, will always take especial care that his illustrations shall be sufficiently full to convey a correct knowledge of the subject under discussion; and as for ourselves, we can assure the reader, that his pocket should be taxed rather than his understanding, as we would treat him to an occasional "supplement" were we to find that the marrow and substance of the lectures on veterinary medicine could not be presented to him in the usual number of pages allotted to this journal.—ED. L.

CHOLERA OR NO CHOLERA.

TRICKS OF SOME GOVERNMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

A great number of persons considered the "Sunderland affair" as a "government hoax, got up for the purpose of producing a counter-revolutionary excitement, and distracting the attention of the people from the reform bill," &c. It is certain that a farce of this sort was once played off with great effect during the riots in Lord G. Gordon's time, or Jack Wilkes's, which quieted the people as effectually as the largest military force could have done, and this, I believe, also happened during a Whig administration. A report was spread that the *plague* had been imported into London, and was raging in Wapping,—that the government was doing every-thing in its power to hush it up, &c. &c. &c.—The thing took like wild-fire, and operated as a most effectual sedative on the popular fury,—after it had done its work, which of course could not have been accomplished without the aid of the *faculty*, and of certain publications (now, thank God, extinct) called *Liespapers*.† A number of tar-barrels were set on fire on the river, and the people were told the plague was fairly "burnt out," which of course they were very glad to hear. Now the cholera comes in "rather a questionable shape," and the news of it certainly arrived most opportunely on the week previous to that in which some grand riots were to be got up in the metropolis.

There can be no doubt that there is a sort of bad endemic cholera always to be met with in the autumn at Sunderland, from the testimony of Dr. Brown, an eminent physician of that place, who, in a work published in 1828 (p. 37), makes the following remarks:—"But the most decisive proof of cholera being the effect of *malaria*, is to be found in the fact, that many of the most obstinate cases of remittent fever, which have occurred in this district (Sunderland), commenced with that disease. During the autumn of 1827, I treated a case which commenced with cholera and passed into remittent fever; but during the two preceding years, the number of cases in which remittent fever commenced with cholera, was very great."

Could any of your correspondents inform me, if there is any-thing worthy of note in a method of treating the spasmodic cholera, discovered by a Dr. Wickher, a Hungarian,

* This letter would have been published in Nov. but we had not sufficient space for it.—ED. L.

† Not quite extinct; vide *O d Times*.—ED. L.