The minority of the committee to whom was referred the paper of Dr. Buck, begs leave to report—that in reviewing the paper alluded to, we are forced to admit that both a priori reasoning and the facts upon record are strongly opposed to the indiscriminate use of large doses of quinine in the treatment of disease—that the cause of death in repeated instances has been traced directly to immense doses of quinine. In view of this fact alone, a prudent physician would unhesitatingly decide against the introduction of a practice which has proved repeatedly fatal. In this decision it will be seen that the committee have taken the broad ground occupied by Dr. B.'s report, to wit, the abuse of large doses of quinine in the treatment of disease, not of fever nor of rheumatism, still less of the fever of Florida, but, we repeat, of disease generally.

In the report read by Dr. Miller, we have seen that the writer has confined his remarks to the use of large doses of quinine in fevers, especially those of Florida. He has therefore taken a totally different ground from Dr. B. It has been said that the paper read before the National Institute by Dr. Van Buren, had reference to quinine in the fevers of Florida; but as this committee was appointed to report upon a different paper, we do not see the propriety of discussing the merits of another which we have not had the opportunity of perusing, and of the facts contained in which, we know nothing.

The question, then, as regards the treatment of malarial fevers of Florida and of southern climates, is one of great interest and importance; but the committee would recommend that all further discussion upon this abstract question be deferred until the facts, now in the possession of the Surgeon General, be put before the medical public, to be duly weighed and analyzed. It would be premature, as we conceive, for one who has not seen these fevers of Florida, to decide for or against large doses of quinine in their management. Fevers are modified and even changed in character by climate, &c; and hence, while a disease at the North would require one dose of a medicine, at another place, the same susceptibility not existing, a larger dose might be required. The ordinary dose of opium is one grain; but who does not know how much of this drug must be given in delirium tremens before its narcotic effect is produced. While, therefore, large doses of opium, indiscriminately given, are hazardous, in delirium tremens they are looked upon by many as indispensable. Reasoning from analogy, then, it is not impossible that large doses of quinine, though generally hazardous, may still become indispensable in some one disease as it manifests itself in a particular climate.

In conclusion, the undersigned would respectfully request, that until the Department is placed in possession of facts upon which to base an opinion, the committee may be excused from reporting upon the bold practice pursued by the Army surgeons in the treatment of the continued fevers of Florida. All of which is respectfully submitted.

W. P. Johnston.