and very troublesome disease. Great caution, however, should be used in inhaling the smoke of stramonium, as too much of it may produce its deadly narcotic effects. The smoke of *sal. nit.*, in my opinion, is also capable of poisoning the system. The following case came under my care some time since. An old gentleman, long subject to fits of asthma, had been advised by his physician to inhale the smoke of this article. He had done it for years, and with much relief to his asthma. But his daughter, who always administered it, was taken sick with a general debility. She lost her appetite, her feet and limbs generally were œdematous, and she seemed in a very critical state. It was my opinion, and hers also, that the smoke of the nitre was the cause. She has since avoided it, and with the use of tonics has recovered her former health.

In what I have now said on the inhalation of *vapors*, I have given the experience of others, and quoted much of their language, also, with some few of my own experiments. But in what follows, I shall give, not the treatment of others only, but also what has been my *own* experience. I have not attempted to be *original*, my principal design having been to call attention to a mode of treatment (yet in its infancy) which promises much in a class of diseases always distressing to the patient, and perplexing to the medical attendant, and often leading to a fatal result irrespective of the anxiety and efforts of both. W. M. CORNELL.

[To be continued.]

THE CHOLERA AT KALAMAZOO.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

HAVING, since the communication of my report of "cases of cholera at Kalamazoo" (see page 249), received letters from several members of the profession, in different parts of the country, soliciting any additional information that might be given in reference to these singular cases, I have thought that I would submit a further statement of facts with a few accompanying remarks, for publication, should they be deemed of sufficient importance.

The report has been generally circulated, that a solution of the corrosive sublimate had been used, in the place of vinegar, in mixing the mustard at the Hotel. A most thorough investigation of this matter was made by the coroner's jury, and the evidence elicited was conclusive against such a supposition. The jug of corrosive sublimate that has been made to play so distinguished a part in this transaction, was kept in the house for the purpose of destroying bugs. It was the strongest possible solution of the bichloride in alcohol. It was kept in a jug *not similar* to the vinegar jug, nor near the same place, nor where there would have been any reasonable probability of its having been mistaken for anything else than for what the servants all testified that they knew it to be, "a jug of bed-bug poison." Absolute ignorance of its immediate effect upon the mouth alone, would be an indispensable prerequisite to a belief that a solution of corrosive sublimate, of the strength of that in this jug, was ever used by any man, in the possession of

his senses, as an article of condiment. Furthermore, the landlady positively testified to having herself filled up the castors the last time they were filled prior to the time when this poisoning must have occurred, if at all. Finally, an accurate chemical analysis of the contents of the suspected vessels, and of the vinegar itself, failed to detect any traces of corrosive sublimate, or of any other poisonous article. From a collation of the testimony of those of the boarders who escaped, with the statements made during their sickness by those who died, it was found that the same articles of food and drink were partaken of indiscriminately by both. The statements which have been made that all of those affected sat at the same end of the table, are not true, for it was in positive testimony that the very converse of this was the case. The same may be said with respect to the many other rumors that have gone abroad in reference to this matter; no fact having been elicited, by the most searching investigations, to warrant the imputation that there had been, on the part of the proprietors of the house, or of any of their servants, anything like reprehensible carelessness or wanton criminality.

If we turn from the examination of this kind of evidence to the consideration of that furnished by the history of the cases themselves, we shall find much more to complete our conviction of the almost absolute impossibility of these persons having died from the effects of the oxy-muriate of mercury or any other known poison. It will be perceived, by a review of my previous report, that the family of emigrants arrived at the Hotel on the 1st, and left on the 2d day of the month; that on the 3d, the first cases occurred amongst them, and during the ensuing night the four succeeding cases occurred at the Exchange. The 2d day, then, must be fixed upon as the day when the poison was taken, if at all. This matter in reference to date being determined, I will now call the attention of the profession to the facts recorded in the following table, in order that they may determine how far they are consistent with the supposition of poisoning on the 2d.

Date of attack.	No. cases.	No. deaths.	Length of time in which death occurred.	Remarks.
Oct. 3d,	2	2	In 10 hours.	
do. at night,	4	4	In 12 "	
Oct. 4th,	2	2	In 9 and 11 hours.	
5th,	2	2	In 11 hours.	Never at the hotel.
6th,	3	3	In 11 hours, 20 hours and 5 ds.	
7th,	1	1	In 6 hours.	" " "
8th,	1			Never at hotel—recov.
10th,	2	1	In 48 hours.	1 recovered.
11th,	3	1	In 36 "	2 "
13th,	2			2 "
Total,	22	16		

This table embraces only such cases as were of the most unmistakable and well-marked character. In every one of them the symptoms were, without material variation, precisely such as will be found detailed in my former report. It will be observed that four of these cases were never at the Hotel. In reference to the eighteen others, it now becomes

necessary to decide, first, as to whether the date of their several attacks is reconcileable with the supposition of poisoning on the 2d ; and, second, whether the symptoms manifested were such as would result from the administration of the corrosive sublimate. Upon the first of these questions, I shall without comment simply call attention to the fact, that in all of the cases that occurred subsequently to the 3d, the only premonitions of the attack were those of a slight diarrhœa, which in no instance preceded the violent onset of the disease, more than twenty-four hours. With regard to the second question, I will only remark, that while the absence of the principal characteristic symptoms, that are known to follow the administration of any given poison, may not constitute in *one* individual case, positive evidence that such a poison had not been taken, yet the want of such symptoms in *eighteen* consecutive cases, would, according to all reasonable rules of evidence, be conclusive against such a supposition.

If the conclusion that these cases were not cases of poisoning, is correct, then the question of what they were, becomes one of great importance. The dark ropy appearance of the blood ; the cold, wet and shrivelled state of the surface, with its dark purplish color ; the feeble pulse, and rapid prostration ; the extreme thirst, and the burning sensation at the epigastrium ; the complete arrest of the glandular secretions ; the cold tongue, and the coldness of the respired air, sufficiently distinguish these cases from those of the most violent bilious cholera, or cholera morbus, and in fact identify them with nothing else, so clearly and distinctly as with Asiatic cholera. That their occurrence constitutes an episode in the history of the cholera of more than usual interest, is evident from a consideration of the circumstances under which they originated, and the manner in which they were propagated. No cases of cholera were reported as existing at any point upon the route travelled by the Hollanders, during the period of their journey to this place ; so that no probability of any exposure by them to its influence during that time can be established ; and yet every fact elicited concerning this mysterious affair, has seemed to point directly to them as the persons with whom this disease originated, and from whom it was communicated to others. No cases occurred, excepting amongst those who were exposed directly to them, and the progress of the disease was promptly arrested when they were removed from the village, and not before. These additional facts, with those that have been previously reported, constitute all of material interest that I have to communicate in relation to these singular cases. How far the deductions which I have drawn, are sustained by the facts recorded, I leave to the determination of those whose experience and qualifications render them competent to decide.

A. W. MACK, M.D.

Kalamazoo, Mich., Nov. 11th, 1850.