might go far in determining this interesting question. And it is to be hoped that the physician, under whose care the patient now is, will take advantage of the opportunity, and publish the results of his experiments and the history of the case. The profession claim it of him.

Account of the Epidemic Dysentery, as it appeared in Beverly in the Summer and Autumn of 1824. By DR ABNER HOWE.

[Communicated for the New-England Journal of Medicine, &c.]

THE epidemic, which prevailed in this place, during the months of August September and October, appeared first in Water-Street, and in that part of the town contiguous to the wharves. Cases occurred in different neighbourhoods nearly at the same time; and in three weeks after its appearance, individuals in almost every family in the above mentioned section of the town were under its influence. Four fifths of the entire population, which was contiguous to the bridge and wharves, were more or less diseased during the season. A large proportion of the inhabitants however were not seriously interrupted in their usual employments.

In about a fortnight after its appearance as just described, a number of cases occurred near the meeting-house in Upper Beverly; and here it proved more fatal in proportion to the number diseased, than in any part of the town. For a number of days, while the epidemic was raging with symptoms as malignant as at any period of its continuance in these two sections, the intervening space, a distance of two miles, was without a case. However during the months of September and October no part of the town was entirely exempted from its influence.

Less rain had fallen during the preceding months of June and July than usual, and the springs were low until October, but no local causes were known to give a more general prevalence or greater malignity in one neighbourhood than in another. Some change in symptoms appeared after repeated rains, but the disease was not rendered milder by such a circumstance.

Symptoms. The symptoms were a pain in the bowels with frequent discharges of a dark green colour, with occasional specks of blood. The pain, which attended the discharges with a few exceptions, was less severe than usually attends the dysentery. The disease was generally ushered in with

rigors and pains in the head, back and limbs. The pulse was somewhat frequent small and hard. The tongue was commonly covered with a white or greenish coat. During the progress of recovery there was a remarkable uniformity in the appearance of the tongue. The sides and end first became moist and of a lighter colour than before and a separation of the coat from the tongue then followed in a pretty uniform and gradual manner. If after this separation, the tongue was left smooth and red, a protracted disease was to be expected. If a thin white coat succeeded the first, the disease generally continued another week without much abatement.

For a few days after the invasion the skin was hot and dry; and a pain in the head and dizziness were pretty universal symptoms. In a few cases, which generally proved fatal, coma appeared soon after the attack. The colour of the alvine discharges varied with a great variety of shades, from a dark green to a light yellow. And the violence or fatal tendency of the symptoms was pretty accurately marked by the colour of the dejections.

A suppression of urine was a common symptom, and considerable pain was often produced by its retention. It was not uncommon both for adults and children to void their urine but once in twenty-four hours. A woman was confident her little son discharged no water for four days. The urine was generally of a higher colour, than natural, and a milky sediment appeared in the vessel when suffered to stand. Yet the retention could not be accounted for from inflammation and increased action of the absorbents of the bladder, but in some instances at least, there must have been a diminished secretion. Tenesmus was a common though not a universal symptom.

About the last of August, cases of cholera frequently occurred. But this could not be considered a distinct disease from the dysentery, which had prevailed for three or four weeks. The symptoms, which characterize the two diseases, were witnessed in the same family; and individuals were known to be successively attacked with both.

The epidemic during its continuance put on the appearance of diseases, which are not only different in symptoms and names, but are supposed to arise from different causes. For three weeks after its commencement, it assumed the pathognomonic marks of dysentery. For four weeks from this period the alvine discharges were more bilious, and cases of cholera were frequently witnessed; and during the month of

October, the disease pretty generally, especially for the first six or eight days, exhibited the appearance of a continued bilious fever.

Treatment. In a few of the cases to which I was called, I prescribed emetics of Ipecac. or Antim. Tart. followed by cathartics, and to be succeeded by opium in such quantities as to relieve the pain. Emetics of all kinds, when they produced no other effect than the evacuation of the contents of the stomach, appeared to be attended with little benefit to the patient. Even in the early stages of the disease, the symptoms were not perceptibly relieved by medicines of this class.

Cathartics were very generally followed with decided benefit. Even aloetic pills, which were sometimes taken before the advice of a physician was requested, commonly afforded some relief. Rhubarb in substance or tincture was a useful remedy. In a few cases however it excited great tormina and distress. Castor oil, when given alone or combined with calomel, was generally followed with some relief from pain and abatement of disease. But during the second and third periods of the epidemic, calomel alone or combined with rhubarb or castor oil, was decidedly a good cathartic. It was my general practice to give almost daily such doses of this medicine as to produce two or three dejections, and to give opium either combined with it or to follow its operation in such doses as to remove all pain. Alkalis formed a useful class of remedies. I frequently gave magnesia, lime water, or a solution of the carbonate of soda. Injections of starch or mucilage of gum-arabic with tincture of opium were generally followed with temporary relief, and frequently with permanent benefit. Blisters applied to the bowels or even to the limbs were not without some beneficial effects.

Bleeding was not followed with such decided relief as to induce me to have very frequent recourse to the practice. In one case attended with pain in the head, vomiting and purging, a pulse small, frequent and somewhat hard, the blood drawn from the arm did not exhibit the appearance of inflammation, and no perceptible benefit followed its abstraction. In another case attended with similar symptoms, but with less of the cholera, the blood exhibited something of the inflammatory buff.

Some benefit generally followed the use of sudorifics, especially in the first stage of the disease. Ipecac. and opium or the aqua acet. ammon. in full doses were generally used. The warm bath and the above mentioned compounds were among the most efficient remedies for the epidemic.

The vegetable and saline astringents were exhibited in different stages of the disease, but usually with no good effect. When it had assumed its chronic form and had been of many weeks continuance, astringents, taken into the stomach or used by way of injections, did not give satisfactory relief. When it passed from its acute to its chronic form, it appeared to be only a change from a general to a local disease. Purgatives were necessary in the first, and laxatives and tonic cathartics in the second. A man, who had laboured under the disease for six weeks, with frequent discharges from the bowels, and considerable pain, which was mostly confined to a particular spot, was cured by the application of a blister on the painful part. Having used the spirits of turpentine with success in some cases of diarrhœa, I expected it would prove a valuable remedy in the chronic form of dysentery. But after giving it a fair trial in many cases, I was induced to abandon its use, having witnessed no decidedly good effects from the medicine in any case.

CASES.

August 5.—Visited Mr E. W. aged 60. His pulse is about 90. Has severe pain in the bowels and discharges of a green colour, sometimes streaked with a little blood. He has frequent but slight rigors. Has no appetite for food, and is at times considerably thirsty. His tongue is covered with a white coat. Give 6 grs hydrar. submur. to be followed with purgative salts in four hours. After the purgative operation, a grain of opium to be given after every discharge, or when the pain should in any degree be troublesome. He is likewise directed to take half an ounce of aqua acetitis ammon. every 8 hours.

6. Symptoms nearly as yesterday. The aq. acet. am. and opium continued.

7. Prescribe 6 grs. hyd. sub. to be followed with an ounce of castor oil. The aq. acet. am. continued.

The opium to be given in such doses and with such frequency as to remove all pain.

8. An ounce of tinct. rhei to be given. Other medicines as before. He drinks freely of an aqueous solution of gum arabic. His diet to be water gruel and milk porridge.

9. Discharges from the bowels are frequent, and their colour indicates an increased secretion of bile. Give 6 grs. of hyd. sub. Directed to take 20 grs. of carbon. soda every six hours, and at night has pul. opii gr. 1. Pul. Ipecac. gr. ij.

10. The pain higher in the bowels than before, but not severe. Carbon. soda and pul. opii and ipecac. continued.

11. Some abatement of disease. The alkali and opium continued. The pain being principally confined to one spot, a blister is applied to the part.

12. The fur is separating from the edges and end of the tongue. The alvine discharges less frequent and the colour of a lighter green. Medicines continued.

13. Give an ounce of castor oil. Opium and alkali continued.

14. Give a decoction of the slippery elm (*ulmus fulva*.) The opium to be given when indicated by pain.

15. Notwithstanding the disease slowly subsided, and the fur separated from the tongue during the second week, yet the dysenteric discharges were not entirely removed until the expiration of four weeks from the attack. A small spot a little below the umbilicus, during the whole time, remained painful and tender when pressed. This local disease of the alimentary canal was finally removed by mild cathartics and the local application of blisters.

August 10.—I was called to visit a child aged 6 years. The discharges from the bowels were frequent, of a chocolate colour and attended with considerable pain. There was great prostration of strength, pain in the head and restlessness. Give an emetic of pul. ipecac; and its operation to be followed with 6 grs. of hyd. sub. The tinct. opii to be given in such doses as to remove all pain. A quantity of the solut. carbon. soda to be given every six hours.

11. Symptoms no better than yesterday. The cathartic to be repeated, and to be followed by the opium and alkali. Directed that the bowels should be bathed with warm water, and that the child should drink freely of the decoction of slippery elm.

12. Symptoms as before. Medicines continued. An injection of muc. Gum arabic with 20 drops of tinct. opii to be given.

13. The child at times is comatose. Discharges are frequent, and often specked with blood. 3 grs. hyd. sub. and half an ounce of castor oil to be given. It is directed to take a drachm of mist. calcis. carbon. every six hours.

14. No abatement of disease. Directed that a large blister be immediately applied to the bowels. Medicines continued.

15. Discharges are frequent, dark and small in quantity. The child is disposed to sleep except when roused by pain. The urine is seldom discharged and the quantity small.

Give half an ounce of castor oil, and directed that its operation be immediately followed by tinct. opii. Give mucil. g. arabic and aether nit. every three or four hours. The limbs and bowels to be often bathed in warm brandy. Injections repeated.

16. Coma almost constant. Brandy and tinct. opii to be given in small quantities. On the morning of the 17th the child expired.

September 8. Visited Miss M. V. aged 18. She had been attacked the evening before with the symptoms of cholera. The vomiting and purging had been almost without intermission for a few hours, attended with great prostration of strength. A great part of what was thrown from the stomach indicated the presence of bile. Direct that she take 2 grs. of hyd. sub. combined with a syrup of white sugar and brandy every half hour, until a cathartical effect should be produced, and then a grain of opium to be given every 8 hours. A blister is to be applied to the stomach and frictions to the limbs.

9. Much of the medicine had not been retained. The surface was warmer than yesterday. pulse 130. Give hyd. sub. 3 grs. and opii gr. j. every 4 hours. Frictions and warm bath directed.

10. Vomiting not quite so often as before, but the stomach rejects all food and drinks. The alvine discharges take place every half hour. Colour of the dejections a dark green. She is so weak as to be unable to articulate distinctly and is at times delirious. Continue the hyd. sub. and opium, and give the effervescing mixture.

11. No improvement since the last visit. Delirium continues. Pulse 135. Medicines continued. An enema composed of muc. g. arab. and 30 drops of tinct. opii to be used.

13. At times a febrile flush appears in the face. The vomiting and alvine discharges are less frequent. The pulse is 120. Medicines as yesterday to be continued.

14. The gums are a little swollen, and all the symptoms, are more favourable. Give 10 drops of an aqueous solut. of hyd. muriat. and ten drops of tinct opii every 8 hours.

15. The vomiting has almost ceased, and the alvine discharges are about six in 24 hours. The solut. and opium to be continued.

16. She takes food with a relish. Give an infusion of rad. columb. in small and frequent doses. Tinct. opii to be given when indicated by pain.

October 8.—Visited Mr C. P. aged 35. He has great pain

in the head, back and limbs. The discharges from the bowels are green and attended with some pain. Pulse 100, small and hard. Drew 16 ounces of blood from the arm. A blister is to be applied to the back of the neck. Give 10 grs. of hyd. sub. and 20 grs. of pul. rhei. A similar dose to be repeated in 8 hours if no cathartical effect should follow the first. The operation to be followed by 2 grs. of pul. opii and ipecac. sufficiently often to remove pain.

9. The opiate powders to be continued, and he is directed to drink freely of a solution of carbon. sodæ.

10. He vomits frequently and the alvine discharges are attended with considerable pain; 2 grs. of hyd. sub. mur. to be given every 2 hours, and a large blister to be applied to the abdomen.

11. The vomiting continues, and the discharges from the bowels are small in quantity. 3 grs. of hyd. submur. to be given every two hours, and an ounce of magnes. sulph. every four.

12. The medicines have been given, but no cathartic effect produced. The hyd. sub. to be continued, and an enema to be used every four hours until the bowels become sufficiently moved.

13. The alvine discharges have been copious. Give one ounce of aq. acet. ammon. every six hours and one gr. of opium when indicated by pain.

14. Symptoms and remedies as yesterday.

15. Some abatement of the general disease. Alvine discharges frequent and nausea occasional. Give an ounce of tinct. rhei. Its operation to be followed by frequent doses of the mist. cal. carbon.

16. The mixture to be continued.

17. The tongue is becoming clean, and the appetite for food improving. Give of a decoction of the angustura a number of times, in a day.

October 20. Saw Miss C. O. aged 14. She has nausea, frequent rigors and great pain in the head. Give 6 grs. of hyd. subm. and an ounce of castor oil. Sinapisms to be applied to the feet and a warm decoction of pennyroyal to be given until sweating is produced.

21. Symptoms somewhat abated except the pain in the head. A blister is to be applied to the back of the neck; and a small dose of solut. ant. tart. to be given every six hours.

22. A cathartic of hyd. submur. and castor oil to be given. Solut. ant. to be continued.

23. The pain in the head is so severe as occasionally to produce delirium. Give opii gr. j. ipecac. gr. ij. hyd. submur. gr. iij. every six hours.

24. Since yesterday there has been a sudden change of disease from the head to the lungs. She has no pain in the head, but is affected with a constant cough with dyspnoea and no expectoration. The bowels are constipated. Give an ounce of castor oil, and the following compound every six hours, hyd. submur. gr. iij. antim tart. gr. $\frac{1}{4}$ potass and nit. gr. iij.

25. The discharges from the bowels begin to assume a dysenteric appearance. The antimonial powders are to be continued.

26. The cough and dyspnoea are abating. The pul. antim. to be continued. A grain of opium to be given when indicated by pain.

27. The cough and dyspnoea removed. The dejections frequent and attended with pain. The medicines to be continued.

28. The disease of the bowels is perceptibly abating. The mouth is a little sore.

29. Direct her to take daily of an infusion of columbo.

Beverly, May, 1825.

Case of Ovarian Pregnancy. Communicated by G. BARKHAUSEN, Med. Dr. of Bremen.

[Communicated for the New England Journal of Medicine and Surgery.]

MRS. M. 34 years of age, of a delicate frame and inclining to hysteria, had, in her youth, the small-pox, which left her face much pitted, and she happily surmounted all other complaints, which commonly occur in that age; she had in due time, and afterwards regularly, her menses, and enjoyed generally, up to the age of 24, when she was married, a good state of health. Her marriage was a happy one; she became the mother of four living children, and suffered four times an abortion in the fifth month. During and in absence of her pregnancies, she now suffered frequently from spasmodic affections of the abdomen, and rheumatic pains in the head; however, during her pregnancies she was free from vomiting and many other sufferings not uncommon to said state. In December 1822, she suffered from a slight pleuritis, which, by means of topical bleedings, neutral salts, &c. was removed.