thirty minutes, and a rejected candidate from the Colleges of Edinburgh or Dublin can thus easily procure this certificate for the naval service.—I am, Sir, your obliged servant,
August 13th, 1848. A CONSTANT READER.

PLANS LATELY ADOPTED IN RUSSIA FOR THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

(From the Times of Tuesday, August 15th.)

"THE following instructions concerning the cholera were addressed to the country people in Russia by authority of the government, and are worthy of attention here:—

'It has been remarked, that just before the appearance of the cholera in a district the inhabitants are troubled more than usually by diarrhoeas and other complaints, trifling under ordinary circumstances, but which, in the presence of the epidemic, are apt, if neglected, to degenerate into real cholera cases.

'It is well known, from the experience obtained in 1830 and 1831, that the cholera is in itself generally not contagious, but that it may become so, like some other diseases, if many sick are kept crowded together.

'The cholera has been found to be most destructive in villages situated on low and marshy grounds, or near bogs and stagnant pools, and particularly where the inhabitants are confined within narrow space, and live unmindful of cleanliness.

'It has been further observed, that those dejected in spirits and easily alarmed are more subject to cholera than those who live in confidence and are of good courage.

'The preceding remarks having been made, the following are the precautions recommended for observance against cholera:—

'To beware of catching cold, and particularly to protect the stomach from cold, for which purpose to wear a broad belt of cloth or stout flannel upon the skin around the waist; not to lie upon the bare ground, nor to sleep at night in the open air. After sleep or hard labour, when in perspiration, to drink no water or other beverage cold; to drink no acid beverage, and never much at a draught; to beware of all things of intoxication; to use light food, and moderately; to eat no bread insufficiently baked, no crude vegetables, no unripe fruits, nor meat or fish not perfectly fresh, and to abstain from salted meats and pickled fish that provoke thirst; to keep the person and the dwelling clean, and to allow of no sinks close to the house, to admit no poultry or animals within the house, and to keep it airy by ventilation. Where there are sick, let not the place be crowded.

'Notwithstanding the best precautions, the cholera may at times break out. The following are its symptoms, and the treatment to be pursued with perseverance and confidence:—

'A person in good health may be suddenly attacked by cholera; at first sickness, the eyesight dimmed, then, after a shiver and rumbling in the bowels, vomiting and purging, with acute pains below the breast, under the ribs, and on the left side, attended by quenchless thirst. If the patient be not quickly succoured, cramps ensue in the legs and arms, which become of icy coldness, extreme weakness comes on, and a deadly paleness; the whole body becomes cold, then a hic-cough, and other signs of approaching death.

'On the appearance of the first symptoms let medical aid be immediately called, but if that cannot be obtained, the treatment necessary is as follows:—

1. Let the patient be warmly covered.

2. Let his whole body be well rubbed with warm vinegar or brandy; likewise his hands and feet and pit of the stomach with clear tar, or, if none can be had, with strong brandy.

3. Let the patient take, in frequent and small quantities, a warm and light infusion of mint, or of the essence of mint, one or two drops at a time, with sugar.

4. If there be no abatement of pain or vomiting, a blister of mustard should be applied to the pit of the stomach.

5. If all the same symptoms still continue, and the patient be of a strong constitution, then apply leeches to the same place, twelve to twenty for an adult, and for children six to ten; but if of a weak constitution, let no leeches be used without the advice of a physician.

6. A warm bath, if ready and near, may be used with benefit, otherwise a vapour bath may be prepared at home, thus:—Heat some stones or bricks, and over them place a bedstead with a netted bottom, upon which let the patient be stretched, well covered; then throw the vinegar upon the hot stones, whence steam will arise conducive to perspiration,

aided by the frictions, which must not be discontinued. For want of this vapour bath, place around and in contact with the patient bags of heated sand or ashes.

'Observations.—During the present epidemic, no applications have been found so efficacious as strong frictions, either with the naked hand, with a cloth, or with a brush, using clean tar or some other irritant. The essence of peppermint may be used more freely than heretofore prescribed.

'Great care must be observed during convalescence, for the cholera is but too often followed by typhus fever.'

A NEW REMEDY IN ENGLISH CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to introduce, through your valuable pages, a remedy, which in my hands has proved a most useful therapeutic agent, in the cure of simple cholera, when accompanied with great flatulence, and indicated by eructations of an unpleasant nature. The material is named naphthaline, (and seems an essential constituent of naphtha;) it can be procured from Mr. Hooper, of Pall Mall East, and doubtless elsewhere. It is pronounced the purest hydro-carbon, and most readily absorbs gaseous products, and putrescent materials of the intestines, relieving almost instantly the tympanitic condition of the bowels, so often present in that disease. This crystalline substance may be given in pills, in one or two grain doses, with opium, or aromatic confection; the latter, for the purpose of removing in part the unpleasant odour which seems peculiar to it.

I offer this remedy for trial, more particularly at the present moment, as carbon has been strongly recommended by Dr. Parkin; and as this is the purest hydro-carbon that we have, and again, because naphtha, (not the medicinal naphtha, which after all appears to be only acetone,) has received some reputation for the cure of that formidable disease on the borders of the Caspian Sea.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Romney-terrace, Westminster,
August 15th, 1848.

J. C. ATKINSON.

TREATMENT OF CHOLERA BY CARBON AND CARBONIC ACID.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the notice which you did me the honour to take of my work, in the last number of THE LANCET, there is, I think, one point that requires a slight explanation, otherwise your readers may misinterpret my meaning.

The Reviewer remarks, "As a prophylactic, as also in the stages of diarrhoea, and the rice-water evacuations, the efficacy of carbon is reported to have been manifested." And the following quotation is then given from my work:—

"But it is in the commencement of collapse that the efficacy of the remedy is best observed, and its *modus operandi* the most apparent. Not only is the vomiting immediately arrested," &c.

Now, as this quotation follows immediately after the preceding sentence, without any remarks, your readers, I fear, may infer that the results therein described refer to the employment of carbon, which is not the case. The prompt and decided effects there detailed have only been observed by me after the employment of *carbonic acid gas*, and I have therefore thought it right to correct any misapprehension on this point. This would seem to be the more necessary, from the observation which follows the quotation referred to; for it is added,—

"Dr. Parkin, however, prefers the administration of carbonic acid, on various accounts, to that of the pure carbon," thus apparently confirming the impression that all the preceding remarks had reference to the employment of carbon alone.

There is also one other point which would seem to require a few remarks from me. It is observed by the Reviewer—

"But Dr. Parkin, in his eager advocacy of his remedy, seems to overlook the important fact, that in administering effervescing draughts to the patient, he is, along with carbonic acid, rendering to the system supplies of saline materials; and the two remedies may fairly be considered as exercising divided empire over the disease in cases of cure."

Did it so happen that I had confined myself, when administering this remedy, to the employment of effervescing draughts, the above conclusion would, of course, hold good, but such is not the fact, for not only have I resorted to pure solutions of carbonic acid, in the form of soda, or seltzer water, at all times, but I was careful, in the first experiments I made with