

## Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

## TO WHAT AGENT OR AGENTS ARE THE JEWS INDEBTED FOR THEIR REPORTED EXEMPTION FROM CHOLERA?

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—Whilst reading, in *THE LANCET* of the 25th ult., Mr. C. Rodney Huxley's article "On the Treatment of Choleraic Diarrhoea by Olive Oil," I was struck with the following passage:—

"And so surely will it yet be learnt that the remarkable escape of the Jews in seasons of cholera is attributable to the frequent use of this oil. The fact is so notorious that I am surprised the subject has been passed over as little more than the result of accident."

Mr. Huxley, like many others whose views have been published in *THE LANCET* on the exemption of the Jews from attacks of cholera, attribute that exemption to the use of olive oil. For a time I was of the same opinion; but whilst searching for facts, for a certain purpose on this subject, I found that the members of the Jewish persuasion made great use of vinegar and lemon-juice, as well as of olive oil, with articles of diet. The information then obtained induced me to write, in a paper read by me before the Epidemiological Society, July 3rd, 1854, thus:—

"Perhaps it will be found, upon further inquiry, that the members of the Jewish persuasion of the present day are somewhat indebted to the use of vinegar and lemon-juice, as well as to olive oil, for their reported exemption from attacks of cholera. I possess a statement of the use made of both with articles of diet, which seems to throw a light upon the subject. The merit hitherto, as far as I know, has been given to olive oil, abstinence from spirituous liquors, as well as to the precautions taken with respect to animal food before cooked, and to the observance paid to the cleanliness of all cooking utensils."

At page 97 of *THE LANCET* for July 29th, 1854, will be found a letter of mine "On the Exemption of the Jews from Cholera," which refers to some observations of the editor in the preceding number in reply to questions asked by Mr. G. L. Spencer. On referring to these, Mr. Huxley will find that the subject has not been "passed over as little more than the result of accident." Mr. Huxley, or any other gentleman who maintains the same views as himself, would do great service to the cause of research, if he or they would endeavour further to prove that olive oil plays the prophylactic as well as remedial part in choleraic diarrhoea, or that state of derangement which precedes cholera. For my own part, I wish to learn of others, at the same time beg to state that, as far as the Jews are concerned, I am inclined to think that to the vegetable acids is partly due the exemption that sect claim from attacks of cholera.

I believe it is now generally understood that the inhabitants of cider counties, such as drink cider, are to a very great extent exempt from cholera, indeed, almost entirely so. Very few persons in cider districts make use of olive oil; but should it be proved that olive oil is the safeguard as regards the Jews, perhaps it may be found that butter, cream, lard, and the fat of very fat bacon, is that of those who reside in some cider counties, where they are plentifully supplied with such, and not to cider.

Olive oil, as a remedy against cholera, was highly lauded in 1849; perhaps many others are prepared to bear testimony as to its efficacy. That man would deserve great praise who could ensure his fellow-creatures safely against the invisible darts of the hidden foe, cholera. But will such an one be found? Why should we despair? The immortal Jenner left a shield to protect mankind against one of the foes to the human race, and might, perhaps, under Divine Providence, have been the means of saving many a child who now, as a man, is fighting the battles of his country, with a view to overcome a visible foe to ourselves and to our noble allies.

There is yet much of value to be gathered together as regards cholera in all its phases; but where is the storehouse to deposit the scattered grains? As far as the prophylaxis of cholera is concerned, to your readers I beg to offer myself as the recipient of their views, whatever they may be, which shall be so placed as to ensure attention with due regard to one and all.

Much gratification will be afforded me by being enabled to place in the hands of the Cholera Committee of the Epidemio-

logical Society whatever documents may be sent to my residence for that purpose, and the Cholera Committee will doubtless be pleased with numerous answers to one of the queries asked by that committee, viz.:—"Do you know any cases showing the value of *prophylactic* measures, medicinal dietetics, &c.? State the particulars of your experience."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Berners-street, Nov. 1854.

J. H. TUCKER.

## SUPPRESSION OF ILLEGAL PRACTICE.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—In *THE LANCET* of Nov. 4th, 1854, appeared a letter from "Medicus," containing what appeared to me an excellent suggestion—viz., "that every medical man who loves his profession should be requested to send you the names of all those unqualified individuals practising in their locality." To do this would be little trouble to any one. Much advantage would be gained by having their names published: first, in making the public generally aware of the number of mean-spirited, shabby fellows who are sailing under false colours—obtaining money under false pretences—practising a lie, and destroying their health; secondly, it would have the effect of shaming some amongst ourselves, who (with sorrow must it be confessed) meet and consult with these men. For it is a fact, Sir, that some physicians are guilty of this miserable practice. They say, in excuse, "Oh! I did not know that the man was unqualified," or "He was in practice before 1815," knowing at the same time that such is not the case; or, at any rate, rather than inquire whether such be the fact or not, preferring to clutch their fees and gulp the shame, and remain in intentional ignorance. I am not supposing cases. Should you insert this, and it should meet their eyes, I hope they will take a hint, and amend their manners.

As a further means of carrying out the suggestion of "Medicus," why should not a society be formed expressly for the purpose of suppressing quackery and illegal practice? This can be done by means of a society only. Individuals cannot take the initiative, and commence a prosecution on their own account. They have not time, nor can they bear the notoriety of an information or suit. With a society it is different. I should say, let every medical man in the country be applied to individually for a subscription, (it need be a very small one,) and have his name enrolled as a member, and a committee formed in London for carrying out the objects of the society, and I think we should soon see beneficial results. If you think this worthy of notice, you would oblige me by giving it a place in your journal.

I am, Sir, yours most obediently,

Dec. 1854.

MEDICO-CHIRURGUS.

## THE EAST INDIA COMPANY'S SERVICE.

*To the Editor of THE LANCET.*

SIR,—By the last mail I sent you a few remarks on the nature of the treatment medical men receive at the hands of the Hon. East India Company in India. I requested your impartial inquiry and warning to young men commencing life in the profession, against coming to India. Truth is all I desire between the employer and the employed. The unfairness of the dealings of the East India Company with their medical servants may be judged of by the purport of the memorials sent to the Court of Directors during the last five years. Until the medical branch is again put on an equal footing with the military branch of the service, let all young men beware. All that the service asks for is, an equal footing; but this they are denied. Until such is made the rule, a young man had far better come out to India as a cadet of infantry, even should he have obtained a diploma from a College of Surgeons. On another occasion I will enter more fully into proof of this, should I find that you are willing to discuss the interests of the service.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,

Bombay, November, 1854.

AMICUS.

UNIVERSITIES OF ABERDEEN.—Several petitions have been received by Lord Aberdeen with respect to the University of Aberdeen. Considerable difference of opinion, it appears, exists between "New" and "Old" Aberdeen as to various changes in the Faculties of Divinity, Law, &c.; but all agree that the Faculty of Medicine would be better managed in Edinburgh, London, or some large town, where facilities of hospitals, medical schools, &c., exist so much superior to those in the small towns of the far north.