empirical and exclusive application of a single instrument, into an art susceptible of analysis and development; capable of furnishing the beneficent hand of the surgeon with varied means for the relief of afflicted humanity, and which may, I hope, now be ranked amongst the most positive subjects of study.

EXTERNAL APPLICATION OF QUININE IN AGUE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Through the medium of your widely-circulating periodical, I wish to direct the attention of the profession to a fact of some importance in the treatment of intermittent fever. It is this:—cases of ague sometimes occur, in which it is unadvisable or impossible to administer the sulphate of quinia internally. Under such circumstances, I have seen the following treatment attended with the best effects:—A blister is applied over some part of the epigastric region; when it has risen, the cuticle is removed, and the surface lightly sprinkled with the sulphate of quinia, and dressed with some simple ointment. Absorption of the quinia takes place, and thus the cure is accomplished.

I have seen this plan adopted in several instances with *general*, but not *invariable*, success; but neither is the quinia treatment in the other forms, when admissible, *invariably* successful. I think it but right to state, that in most, but not in all, instances, this application is attended with considerable pain for some hours, and in one case there was a superficial ulcer produced by sloughing of the cutis. I would suggest, but have not tried, poulticing the blistered surface for the first twelve or twenty-four hours after removal of the cuticle, and then applying the sulphate of quinia in the form of ointment, combined with opium or belladonna, &c., to obviate pain.

This treatment I have never seen in print, and first heard of it in the hospital of this town, where the experiments were made at a period when ague was prevalent in the neighbourhood. If it is of any value, which can only be decided by longer experience, I must acknowledge that to my scientific friend Dr. Purcell, who is at the head of that institution, is due the merit of suggesting it. I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

THOMAS CHRISTIAN.

Carrick-on-Suir, Ireland,
Feb. 13, 1833.

STATISTICAL REMARKS

ON THE EFFECTS OF CHOLERA IN FRANCE

DURING THE EPIDEMIC OF 1832.

By A. MOREAU DE JONNES.*

1st. The duration of the irruption of cholera in France extended from March 15th to December 31st, 1832, a period of 291 days, or nine months and a half. At the end of that period, the disease still existed in twelve departments, notwithstanding the diminished temperature.

2nd. The departments in which the cholera continued from the beginning to the end of that long irruption, are those of the *Pas de Calais* and *Seine*.

3rd. The disease attacked 50 departments successively, viz.

In March	3
April.....	21
May.....	7
June	6
July.....	1
August.....	7
September	5

4th. The entire surface of these 50 departments is 16,267 square leagues, which leaves 10,783 for the 36 departments not attacked by cholera in 1832.

5th. But in marking the degree of the infection, the area overrun by the cholera must be limited. Nineteen departments, containing 5840 square leagues, were entirely overrun; twenty-one departments, containing 7228 square leagues, had not a third of their population infected. Forty departments, then, containing 13,068 square leagues, suffered severely from the disease. Ten other departments, containing 3199 square leagues, suffered but slightly.

6th. Leaving out these departments, we may conclude, generally, that the cholera in nine months and a half of 1832, has spread over about half the surface of France.

7th. The disease spread by contiguity, as in the other parts of Europe, following lines, of which Paris was the centre, ramifying with the communications through the country.

8th. In each department the time of the irruption was sooner or later after that of Paris, in proportion to the distance from, and the frequency and rapidity of the communications with, the capital. Thus the departments of the east became infected in the following dates, viz.

* Communicated by Sir David Barry.