effect of croton oil, and afford hope of favourable issue. When taken it produces a glow in the stomach and fauces; it certainly acts powerfully on the mucous surfaces, and perhaps on the nervous system. Its action sometimes has appeared as sudden as the disease's attacks; it has in a few cases removed the pain from the stomach, and arrested the cramps, within ten minutes.

PATRICK GILLESPIE, M.D., &c.
69, Lisson Grove North, London,
September 26th, 1832.

EVIDENCES OF THE PROPAGATION OF MALIGNANT CHOLERA BY CONTAGION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In perusing your own papers, and those of others, on the mode of propagation of Asiatic cholera, and the reports of the endless discussions to which, since its appearance, it has given rise in the different medical societies of the metropolis, I have not failed to perceive how strenuous and consistent you have been in advocating its contagious nature, under certain circumstances.

Notwithstanding the many proofs you and your correspondents have brought forward, of its having been communicated from one person to another, which ought to convince every one of the truth of the doctrine of contagion, still there are many so prejudiced as either to deny the fact themselves, or the doctrine which necessarily flows from them.

I wish to record in your widely-circulated journal, the following facts that occurred in my neighbourhood, and which in my opinion afford positive evidence of the contagiousness of cholera.

Mary Johnston, or Beveridge, left Springbank, Glasgow, on Monday, the 20th of February last, when cholera was then extensively prevailing, and travelled thence, along with her husband, who was a collier, to S. Eura, in Ayrshire, distant from Glasgow about 22 miles. While on the road she had purging and vomiting, (which her husband attributed to whiskey, of which she partook freely,) became exhausted and weak, so as to require the assistance of her husband to reach S. Eura, was ill all that night with purging, vomiting, and cramps, and was attended by two women, sisters, who rubbed her, and administered whiskey toddy; was seen next day by Dr. Anderson, of S. Eura, when she was in the stage collapse, cold, blue, and pulseless, and died in the afternoon of the same day.

This was on Tuesday. On Friday one of the sisters who was engaged in rubbing,

and otherwise closely attending the above, was seized with all the symptoms of cholera, and died after 12 hours illness.

The next case occurred on Saturday, in the other of the two sisters, who had the disease severely but recovered.

The disease continued to spread. 21 out of 100 inhabitants were attacked by it in a decided form, whereof six died and the rest recovered.

Now, Sir, these are facts for the truth of which I vouch; not founded on mere hearsay evidence to which no credit can be attached, but derived in part from inquiries made on the spot by myself, and in part from the medical attendant who was employed at S. Eura by the Kilwinning Board of Health.

There was no bowel complaint prevalent at S. Eura before the arrival of the woman Beveridge, but so extensively did it prevail afterwards, that the medical attendant told me there was scarcely an individual who was not affected with it in some degree. This I would explain by a universal custom that holds with the colliers in this part of the country, for all to pour into the house of their neighbours when he or any of his family happen to be sick or visited with an accident.

This took place to the fullest extent here; all flocked to the house where the sick woman was lodged, therefore all were exposed to the contagion, and the consequence was, that some had severe cholera, while others escaped with diarrhœa only.

Remark. This person left an infected district, was seized with the disease when on the road, travelled a distance of 20 miles at least, came to a pure atmosphere where all were healthy, and the disease then spread as from a centre, first among those who attended her closely, and afterwards among the population generally, who had all been in the house in which she had lodged.

It is worthy of remark also, that the husband of the woman, who closely attended her during her illness, and who after her death slept in the same bed with her corpse, escaped altogether, being, doubtless, unsusceptible of the disease. He was a stout fellow, and did not believe in cholera at all.

I think, Mr. Editor, I have detailed a strong case, almost amounting to a demonstration, that the irruption of cholera at S. Eura depended on the arrival of the woman Beveridge. Let the anticontagionists make what use of it he pleases. To unprejudiced minds I make bold to say it will afford positive evidence of the contagiousness of cholera. I have the honour to be Sir, your most humble servant,

JAMES SALMON, Surg.
Frome, Ayrshire, Oct. 1832.