spring water, I was informed,—a peculiar feature which I have never found absent in any case.) The pain in her stomach was succeeded by vomiting what she had eaten the day before. On Saturday morning, vomiting and purging were incessant, and the discharge from the stomach and bowels consisted of clear fluid in large quantities. This continued during the day. At my first visit she was in a complete state of collapse, that is, with universal coldness of the surface; the hands, face, and legs, blue; cramps violent and continual in the extremities; face shrunk; eyes deeply sunk, and she had all the haggard appearance of a woman of extreme age; tongue deadly cold (felt by the by-standers); incapability of speaking above a whisper; weight at the chest, and sense of suffocation; pulse extinct at the wrist, and all the other usual symptoms of the malady in its worst form.

Immediately on seeing her, I ordered half a pint of cold pump water to be given as a clyster, and to be repeated every half hour, and, at the same interval of half an hour, to take an effervescing draught. I desired she might have cold water in the dose of a full wineglassful as often as she pleased. In fact, the first question she had previously asked me was, "Shall I have some pump water?" She complained of intense and insatiable thirst, and would have taken a pint at a time had I allowed it. The plan was regularly persevered in till twelve at night, three hours and a half after my first visit. At that time I found the cramps subdued, which in the legs had ceased after the fourth clyster, and she expressed herself as being better. She said that the cold water made her feel warmer, that she loved the sparkling draughts, and that after each clyster she felt for a time as if warm towels were applied to her loins, and a heat arose from the bed; vomiting and purging of the same character continued, but slight reaction was evident to the by-standers. Twenty-four leeches were now applied to the pit of the stomach, and hot poultices were applied to the bites during the night; the same treatment by water being persevered in.

On Sunday morning at ten o'clock, I was gratified by finding that reaction had taken place, an effect which was evidenced by a full strong pulse, a hot, dry, and furred tongue, red at the tip, the skin universally warm, blueness totally gone, and cramps completely ceased. The leeches had bled considerably, and were still bleeding. She has slept profoundly for six hours. Vomited, previous to my visit, a quantity of bilious matter, after an interval of three hours' cessation of that symp-

tom. Bowels purged six times during the previous night, but still produced clear fluid. Pain at the lower part of the abdomen; twelve leeches were ordered to the part. The face was so altered from the appearance of the preceding night, as to make her mother remark that "her eyes had come out." Voice restored; head-ach intense, but no delirium; thirst diminished, but complained of dryness of the mouth and throat. After this time the clysters were ordered every two hours; the effervescing draught every hour.

Sunday evening. Found her still improving; purging stopped. Omit the clysters. Draught to be continued every hour.

Monday morning. Said she felt quite comfortable, except experiencing a slight headach. Had sweated profusely during the night; tongue moist and cleaning. A tablespoonful of thin gruel to be taken occasionally. Nothing material was done this day.

Tuesday morning. She is still going on well, and sleeps almost continually.

This is the seventeenth case that has recovered under the same treatment, but little varied, since I adopted it; six cases within the last fortnight and eleven last year, all equally formidable in their appearance, for I adduce only those which I have found in a state of complete collapse. The major part were completely convalescent in the space of from three to five days after reaction was restored, and nothing has presented itself but a slight inflammation of the stomach, which in a few hours has been invariably removed by a few leeches applied to the epigastric region. The fatality in my neighbourhood under mixed treatment, I understand, has been appalling, and I am convinced will be so, as long as it is persevered in. Pure ice, eaten in frequent small quantities, I have found a great auxiliary as an addition to the cold water. Patients eat it with the greatest avidity and satisfaction, feeling on the other hand an abhorrence of warmth and stimulating drinks.

No. 1, Kingsland Road, Aug. 7th, 1833.

MALIGNANT CHOLERA.

TREATMENT WITH MERCURY—VENOUS INJECTION AS AN ACCESSORY.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be much obliged if you will give insertion to the following suggestion upon cholera.

In that stage of cholera which is termed "collapse," it is confessed by every candid mind that there is no remedy. Recoveries have, occasionally, towards the close of

the epidemic, occurred; but it has been under such various and different modes of treatment, that it is quite clear the recoveries have been owing to causes independent of medicine. In fact, the body is dead to the influence of remedies;—the circulation is stopped, and the various vital actions are suspended. In such a state it is clear the body cannot absorb, circulate, and admit the effect of, any agent. The body must be resuscitated, and its animation restored, before we can expect remedies to act. A mistake appears to me to have prevailed in not making this distinction. Means have been recommended, and used, to resuscitate, in the same way as with a body where animation is suspended from drowning: but there is this difference; the drowned body is healthy, — the springs of life have but to be put in motion, and the body is in a condition to carry on its action; but in the cholera patient the fluids are corrupted, and the vital functions are suspended, from the effects of an epidemic poison; it is therefore clear, that the poison must be neutralized, and the blood and fluids restored to a healthy condition, before we can expect recovery. The powers of the constitution are, in some cases, such as to overbalance the effects of the poison, and the patient recovers without any means being used; but the reverse is too often the case, and we must therefore look for something beyond restoring from collapse.

The remedy upon which I have most relied in this disease is mercury; and I believe, if ever the disease is *actually cured*, it is by means of this agent. After a long experience in the East, medical men came to the conclusion that calomel and opium were the remedies to be chiefly relied on in this disease; and in every other part where cholera has prevailed, has this conclusion been eventually come to. Typhus fever, yellow fever, puerperal fever, and various inflammatory fevers, are found to be instantly extinguished where salivation is produced. The difficulty and impossibility of producing this effect in some cases I am fully aware of; but still, where salivation is effected, the disease is annihilated; I confidently stated last year, that salivation would cure cholera; and the first case I treated of this disease, in a state of collapse, was cured by that means: but it was a solitary case. I soon found that a body in a state of collapse was dead to the influence of remedies; and that the largest quantities of mercury which could be used were inert in this condition of the vital powers. It appeared to me, therefore, to be of little use, unless the body could be brought into a condition capable

of receiving its influence. The plan of injecting saline fluids appears to me to effect this desideratum. By this means the collapse is temporarily removed, the circulation is restored, the body becomes warm, and a sort of fictitious life is supplied; but the disease is not cured, — the poison is inherent, and again exerts its deadly influence. The collapse may be again overcome by injections; but it again returns, and the patient dies; and this plan, like every other, fails. I believe, when the body is thus temporarily revived, if mercury be used in the most extensive and persevering manner, both internally and externally, during this artificial restoration, that the patient might be brought under its influence; and if salivation can be produced, I have a strong impression that the patient would recover. I wish to be understood, that salivation full and complete must be produced. Soreness of the gums from mercury is quickly superseded by the disease, as I have repeatedly witnessed in fevers, and also in cholera. No effect of mercury short of complete salivation can be depended on. I have witnessed an impressive case, where soreness of the gums was produced in cholera, and the disease was yielding; but the mercury being omitted under an impression that the effect was sufficient, the disease again acquired its ascendancy, and the patient was lost.

By giving insertion to the above, it may probably excite the attention of some who may have the opportunity and the disposition to give satisfactory *trials* to the suggestion.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
HENRY STEPHENS, M.R.C.S.
London, 54, Stamford-street,
July 31st, 1833.

CASE OF

INGUINAL ANEURISM,

IN WHICH THE EXTERNAL ILIAC ARTERY
WAS TIED WITH SUCCESS.

By MARTIN SINCLAIR, M.D., *Fellow of the
Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, &c.*

THE operation of tying the external iliac artery being now recognised as one of the ordinary performances of surgery, it may seem superfluous to narrate the particulars of the following case in which that operation was employed; but as each additional instance tends to confirm the propriety of the Hunterian method of operating, and to demonstrate the resources of nature in carrying on the cir-