and the contents of both the globes were discharged.

Case.—A youth accidentally received some shot on the back of the head from a fowling-piece. When he was in a state of convalescence, he was induced to eat a small portion of animal food, and to drink a glass of wine. During the night he became feverish, symptoms of inflammation of the brain rapidly succeeded, and on the fourth day he expired.

Case.—I have mentioned to you the case of a lady from whom Mr. Lawrence had removed a large tumour of the hip, and that in this case the wound healed with unusual rapidity; which was to be attributed to the circumstance of her losing a large quantity of blood at the time of the operation. Now although this immense wound healed, and the patient left London on the fifteenth day after the operation, yet a circumstance occurred regarding food, which retarded her recovery, and which also illustrates the doctrine I am now endeavouring to inculcate. This lady, eight or ten days after the operation, feeling herself exceedingly feeble and low, and having till then tasted nothing but water gruel, was induced to take a basin of beef-tea. In a short time she became heated and restless, and her pulse quick; this was in the evening attended with so violent a headach, that besides giving her a powerful cathartic, eighteen leeches were applied to her head, by which prompt and active measure she was soon relieved.

Some time ago, when visiting the Fever Hospital, one of the best-regulated institutions in this metropolis, I was amazed in looking over the list of weekly expenses, to find often the item of "beef-steaks." Having expressed my surprise that the fever patients should get beef-steaks, I was informed, that the medical officers were under the necessity of giving the convalescent patients some animal food, having learnt from experience, that if they were sent home with an unsatiated and voracious appetite, they were apt to indulge in an enormous meal, which in several instances had proved fatal.

The treatment which ought to be employed when patients have taken improper food after an operation, should consist of the early exhibition of emetics or purgatives; and should febrile symptoms supervene, recourse must be had to venesection and febrifuge remedies.

Stimulating drinks are equally as pernicious to the healing of wounds, as improprieties in food.

Case.—A gentleman on whom I operated a few days ago for an extensive fistula, was induced to drink a small quantity of porter; the consequence was, that he com-

plained of pain in the wound during the whole night, and was extremely restless until his bowels were completely evacuated.

In immediate connexion with the subjects already considered in this lecture, I have yet to direct your attention to several circumstances of great interest and importance, but the exhaustion of our allotted time indicates that I must now discontinue my address.

ANTI-STIMULANT TREATMENT OF MALIGNANT CHOLERA.

By JOHN WILSON, Esq., Surgeon, London.

THE reappearance of epidemic cholera in the metropolis, has again given me an opportunity of testing the efficacy of a plan of treatment which I found extraordinarily successful during the latter period of its sojourn last year; and which, moreover, founded as it is on true physiological principles, as well as on the very feelings and desires of the sufferers, renders the publication of my almost invariably successful use of it a duty. This plan consists in the rejection of all spirituous or mineral stimulants, and the substitution, in their place, of cold water and leeches applied in the manner which the following cases will illustrate. Though thus simple, I am the more urged to propagate this treatment, as I myself, at the commencement of the cholera last year, went with the stream, and, notwithstanding the greatest anxiety and assiduity, and assistance of the first practitioners, lost thirty-six cases, while though reaction was restored in a few, they were ultimately fatal from the consequent fever. Since I have adopted my present treatment, my success has been almost incredible, and my gratification extreme. I entreat my brother practitioners to give it a trial, and I am convinced they will bear me out in my assertion of its great efficacy.

CASE.

Sarah Barber, ætat. 17, residing at No. 4, Parson's Square. I first visited her at half-past eight on Saturday evening, 3rd August instant. Her mother informed me, that the preceding day she complained of pain in the stomach and bowels. This was the third day after the death of her father by malignant cholera in ten hours. (He had been treated by another practitioner in the usual way, with mustard cataplasms, brandy, opium, calomel, &c.; the patient had entreated them to give him

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