present in the collapse stage of cholera, which seems to have hitherto escaped the observation of medical men—viz., animal electricity, or phosphorescence of the human body. My attention was first attracted to the subject during the former visitation of that fearful disease in the metropolis. It was indeed singular to notice the quantity of electric fluid which continually discharged itself on the approach of any conducting body to the surface of the skin of a patient laboring under the collapse stage, more particularly if the patient had been previously enveloped in blankets; *streams of electricity*, many averaging *one inch and a half* in length, could be readily educted by the knuckle of the hand when directed to any part of the body, and these appeared, in color, effect, crackling noise, and luminous character, similar to that which we are all accustomed to observe when touching a charged Leyden jar. I may remark the coincidence, that simultaneously with the heat of the body passing off, the electricity was evolved; and I am therefore led to ask the question—Are not heat, electric and galvanic fluids, *one* and the same thing? Does not the fact of the passing off of both imponderable substances at one and the same time strengthen this conclusion?

Again: are not the whole of what we call *vital* phenomena produced by certain modifications of the electric-galvanic-magnetic matter and motions? And do we not find that these *vital* phenomena are continuously affected by the relative state of the surrounding electric medium? To what can we attribute the present fluctuating condition of the barometer, if not to it?

We *know* what wonderful *decomposing* action galvanism had on alkalis, under the hands of the illustrious Humphrey Davy; but we do *not know*, nor have we any conception in the present state of knowledge, of the *decomposing* action of electric matter of the atmospheric air, in various conditions, on the fluids generally of the animal body. Chemistry has failed in pointing out any ponderable material as the exciting cause of epidemic diseases.

In the treatment of Cholera, all are agreed that *non-conducting* substances on the surface of the skin aid essentially the cure; and during the disturbed state of the atmosphere, for the purpose of retaining the electricity continually eliminating in the system, we are told to wear woolen bandages, flannel, and gutta percha soles, so as to insulate as much as possible the body, to prevent the heat—the electric fluid—from passing off.—*London Lancet*.

ON QUINOIDINE.

BY F. RÖDER.

THE author has, in consequence of the results published by Liebig on the constitution of quinoidine, made some experiments to obtain from quinoidine or amorphous quinine the latter in a crystalline state. One part of commercial quinoidine is dissolved in four parts of alcohol of 0.865, and a solution of $\frac{1}{2}$ a part protochloride of tin in two parts of

water added to it. This precipitates a dark resinous mass, while the supernatant liquid is but faintly colored; it is separated from the precipitate, and quickly precipitated with ammonia. The precipitate is then well washed and dried, and exhausted with alcohol as long as this removes any thing; the united extracts are again mixed with half the former amount of protochloride of tin, again quickly precipitated with ammonia, and the well-washed and dried precipitate exhausted with alcohol, when an almost colorless solution of pure quinine is obtained, which, carefully saturated with dilute sulphuric acid, affords on evaporation crystals of sulphate of quinine.

In the liquid filtered from the precipitate of protoxide of tin and quinine, as well as in the wash-water, cinchonine is contained, if ordinary quinoidine has been employed which has not been previously purified by precipitation with an alkali. These liquids, containing cinchonine, are precipitated with tincture of galls to obtain the cinchonine in the usual manner.

The precipitated resinous substance still retains some quinine, to obtain which it is dissolved in alcohol, again mixed with a strong solution of protochloride of tin, and then further treated in the above-mentioned manner. The resinous substance so obtained is of an alkaline nature, of a bitter taste, and possesses the peculiar odor of quinoidine; it would probably yield more quinine on further treatment.

The author obtained by this process from two different samples of quinoidine, in one case 43 per cent. quinine, 9 per cent. cinchonine, and 28 per cent. resin; and in the second 40 per cent. quinine, 10 per cent. cinchonine, and 30 per cent. resin; the water amounted to 20 per cent. On precipitating 100 parts of commercial quinoidine in solution with an alkali, the precipitate obtained weighed 69 grs.—*Chem. Gaz. from Mittheilungen des Schweizer.*

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Asiatic Cholera in New York.—It is wholly unnecessary for us to detail the particulars of the introduction or progress of cholera in New York, because every fact connected with it has been chronicled by all the newspapers in the Union. By a resolution of the Board of Health of that city, the physician of the quarantine was called up to report a detailed statement of the "origin, progress and character of the cholera, as the same now exists at the Marine Hospital," which has been executed by Dr. Whiting in a very concise and appropriate manner. The document appears in the form of a pamphlet, and will doubtless be extensively circulated.

People may argue the non-contagiousness of cholera, and so may medical gentlemen—and, indeed, very generally they do; and yet it is morally impossible to deny that the disease was transmitted from one person to another at Staten Island, after the arrival of the ship New York at the