EXTRACTS

FROM COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE
TO THE
MALIGNANT CHOLERA,*Received from the CENTRAL BOARD OF
HEALTH.*

THE CHOLERA AT HOLBECK.

CASES admitted into the cholera hospital, 109. Died 57.

When the disease first made its appearance here, it was of a very malignant and rapid form, soon running into the stage of collapse. The remedies then employed were small doses of calomel and opium, sinapisms, brandy, ammonia, ether, hot-air bath, &c.; but no impression was made, as the first five or six cases soon proved fatal, but they were aged, or intemperate, or pined and starved. We then used scruple doses of calomel every hour for adults; omitted opium, diminished the quantity of brandy, and found that our success was greater.

In the collapse stage of the disease, we think that the most benefit was derived from large doses of calomel, scruple doses of capsicum, with one ounce of brandy and hot water, every hour. In some of the cases the calomel was alternated with Stevens' saline. Some cases, we thought, were ameliorated by stimulant injections, containing capsicum and spirits of wine or brandy. We derived no permanent effect from transfusion, the patients rallying for a time, but eventually sinking. We invariably applied sinapisms to the spine and stomach, with hot-water to the feet by means of tins.

W. CASSON.

R. G. HORTON.

Holbeck, near Leeds, Sept. 20, 1832.

THE CHOLERA AT PRESTON.

Although the *treatment* of the cholera in this town has been very unsuccessful, yet the means employed to prevent the spread of the disease have been attended with the most happy results. The disease has made its appearance in four different parts of the town at different periods, and always in districts where other infectious diseases usually prevail, yet by early interment in coffins smeared with tar and chloride of lime, fumigating the infected houses with chlorine, lime-washing the walls, scouring the apartments, and burning or washing the clothes of the deceased, the cholera has not in a single instance recurred in the same dwelling; and only in one

district was the disease transmitted to any adjacent houses, and in that instance it was entirely subdued after four deaths had occurred.

Only two cholera patients have been admitted into the hospital, and they were moribund when removed from their own dwellings, and died a short time after their removal.

JAMES HARRISON,

Res. Surg. of the Preston Board of Health.

Preston, Sept. 20th, 1832.

SPEEDY PRODUCTION OF SALIVATION.

It really would appear from the tenor of recent reports to the Central Board of Health, that the experience of our Indian brethren, who have treated cholera in its native soil, ought not to be so much disregarded as the practitioners of Europe have seemed disposed to do. They (the former) have told us that bleeding and calomel, combined with opium, enabled them to save a much greater proportion of cases than has as yet rewarded the innovations of Europe; and recent reports to the Board the writer has now the honour to address, which intimate a tendency to return to this practice, seem to support the alleged great utility of the Asiatic method. Many years ago, when the undersigned had some thoughts of proceeding to India to pursue his profession, and when his head was of course full of tropical diseases, and of plans for their cure, he happened to witness a case of rapid salivation by an unusual method of introducing mercury into the system; and it occurred to him that if salivation was such a sovereign remedy in most tropical diseases as it was reported to be, and if the method of introducing the medicine into the body which he had witnessed in Scotland was to be as speedy in its effects in India as it was in a colder climate, then a very valuable resource might possibly be found, in adopting that method in the treatment of these very rapid and malignant distempers. Under this impression the writer drew up a short paper on the subject, and transmitted it to his late lamented friend Dr. Andrew Duncan, jun., who was at that time (1819) editor of the "Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal," and who did him the honour of inserting it in that most respectable periodical.*

The plan consists in scarifying with a lancet some portion of the surface of the body, and sprinkling upon the wounded surface a small portion (finely levigated) of the powder of corrosive sublimate. A considerable degree of local irritation ensues

* Vol. XV., page 46, 1819.