shall has been appointed somewhat earlier than usual, he will only have gained so much the more experience by the time he arrives at the ordinary age of full surgeons. Very few are aware of the extent of Mr. Marshall's investigations and writings; but if they were more generally known, his appointment would be less cavilled at.

I am not at all acquainted with Mr. Marshall in private, therefore I cannot be said to be interested on the topic any further than to see justice done to a man who will, I feel confident, turn out one of the best that ever emanated from University College.—I beg leave to sign myself,

Your obedient servant,

October 16, 1848.

A THIRD YEAR'S MAN.

ON SMOKING TOBACCO, AS INDUCING OR PREVENTING CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I observed in the *Times* of Monday last, Oct. 9th, an article headed, "The Cholera at Woolwich, Oct. 8th," in which it is stated that a medical consultation had been held, and that "the convicts on board the *Justitia*, at the Royal Arsenal, have been permitted to have tobacco and pipes to smoke." The public from this may be led to infer, that smoking tobacco is considered by the profession a means of guarding against cholera. I would therefore ask how the cholera is likely to be prevented by the exhibition of a poison, which produces debility, and disarrangement of many important functions, particularly those of the brain, stomach, and heart, for we know that the effects of tobacco are severe sickness, headach, faintness, cold sweats, extreme prostration, and, in some cases, convulsions, and even collapse and death. Persons accustomed to smoke may be stimulated at the moment, but these feelings are always succeeded by depression of a singularly lasting character, and a state very ill adapted to repel disease. With the impending danger of cholera, when the digestive functions should be kept in as good a condition as possible, the peculiar dyspeptic symptoms produced by tobacco are much to be dreaded. Dr. Prout, in his excellent work, on "Stomach and Renal Diseases," speaking of tobacco, says, "Although confessedly one of the most virulent poisons in nature, yet such is the fascinating influence of this noxious weed, that mankind resort to it in every mode they can devise, to ensure its stupifying and pernicious agency."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Sutton Coldfield, Oct. 11, 1848.

RICHARD HORTON, M.R.C.S.E.

PUBLIC HEALTH.—CHOLERA.

ABSTRACT OF A NOTIFICATION RESPECTING THE NUISANCES REMOVAL AND DISEASES PREVENTION ACT WHICH APPEARED IN THE GAZETTE OF OCTOBER 6TH.

General Board of Health, Gwydir House, Oct. 5th.

The experience obtained of this disease during its former invasions of this country, and during its recent progress, appears to afford ground for the correction of some views formerly entertained concerning it.

Although it is so far true, that certain conditions may favour its spread from person to person, as when great numbers of the sick are crowded together in close, unventilated apartments, yet this is not to be considered as affecting the general principle of its *non-contagious* nature.

The guardians of the poor and the parochial boards will probably be required, either by themselves individually, or by persons to be employed or specially appointed by them for the purpose, to make examinations from house to house of their several districts, and report to their boards upon the state of each locality.

Householders of all classes should be warned, that their first means of safety lies in the removal of dung-heaps and solid and liquid filth of every description from beneath or about their houses and premises.

Next to the perfect cleansing of the premises, dryness ought to be carefully promoted, which will of course require the keeping up of sufficient fires, particularly in the damp and unhealthy districts.

By the recent Act (11th and 12th Victoria, chap. 123, sec. 1) it is provided, that upon notice in writing, signed by two or more inhabitant householders, that any dwelling-house or building is in a filthy and unwholesome condition, or that there are upon such premises any foul and offensive cesspool, drain, gutter, or ditch, or any accumulations of filth, or that swine are so kept as to be a nuisance or injurious to health,

the authorities shall examine, or cause the premises to be examined; and if upon examination, or upon a medical certificate of two legally-qualified practitioners, it appears that the nuisance exists, the public authority shall make complaint before two justices, who are required to make order for the removal of such nuisance. The amended provisions contained in this Act should be early considered, promulgated, and enforced.

In the meantime, if, notwithstanding every precautionary measure which can be taken, this disease should unhappily break out in any district, then it will be essential to the safety of the inhabitants that they should be fully impressed with the importance of paying instant attention to the premonitory symptom that announces the commencement of the attack.

"In most cases," writes the British consul respecting the epidemic which has just broken out in Hamburg, "the disease has first manifested itself in a slight relaxation of the bowels, from which, if promptly attended to, the patient generally recovers; but if the symptoms are neglected, spasmodic attacks ensue, and death follows mostly in from four to six hours."

It will be indispensable, therefore, on the first outbreak of cholera, that the local authorities should immediately make arrangements for daily house to house inspections of the poorer localities in their respective districts.

Heads of families, masters of schools and workhouses, proprietors of large establishments and works, such as factories, mines, warehouses, wharfs, and docks, should either be their own inspectors, or employ some trustworthy agent to examine daily every person in their employment, and to give at once the proper remedy, if the premonitory symptom should be present.

Each member of the visiting committee should be provided with proper remedies, prepared in appropriate doses for administration on the spot, in every instance in which the premonitory symptom is found to exist, and should report every person so treated as requiring the instant attention of the medical officer.

Dispensaries for bowel complaints should be established at convenient stations, at which the neighbouring inhabitants may apply for the proper remedies and advice the moment they are attacked by the premonitory symptom.

Experience having shown that the establishment of cholera hospitals was not successful, the best provision practicable must be made for affording assistance to the individuals who may need it at their own houses; and one of the best modes of effecting this object will probably be the selection of proper persons, who may be instructed as nurses in the special services required on this occasion, and paid for devoting their whole time to attendance on the sick at their own habitations, under the direction of the medical officers.

It will be necessary to engage a sufficient number of medical officers at suitable remuneration, some to devote their whole time, by day and night, to the service of the dispensaries, and others to attend the sick at their own dwellings.

Medical authorities are agreed that the remedies proper for the premonitory symptom are the same as those found efficacious in common diarrhoea; and that the following, which are within the reach and management of every one, may be regarded as among the most useful—namely, twenty grains of opiate confection, mixed with two tablespoonfuls of peppermint water, or with a little weak brandy-and-water, and repeated every three or four hours, or oftener, if the attack is severe, until the looseness of the bowels is stopped; or an ounce of the compound chalk mixture, with ten or fifteen grains of the aromatic confection, and from five to ten drops of laudanum, repeated in the same manner. From half a drachm to a drachm of tincture of catechu may be added to this last if the attack is severe.

Half these quantities should be given to young persons under fifteen, and still smaller doses to infants.

It is recommended to repeat these remedies night and morning for some days after the looseness of the bowels has been stopped.

Every article of food which is known to favour a relaxed state of the bowels should, as far as possible, be avoided—such as every variety of green vegetables, whether cooked or not, as cabbage, cucumber, and salad. It will be important, also, to abstain from fruit of all kinds, though ripe, and even cooked, and whether dried or preserved. The most wholesome articles of vegetable diet are—well baked, but not new bread, rice, oatmeal, and good potatoes. Pickles should be avoided. Articles of food and drink which in ordinary