serous discharge taken place from the bowels, although the collapse was equally perfect. Nor was it necessary to inject more than from 4 to 6 pounds in each. In one of the cases sleep took place during the process. Upon the whole I am inclined to place more dependence upon this remedy than on any other mode of treatment yet recommended; and I have no hesitation in saying, that if you see your patient soon after the collapse takes place, and before the *insensible draining* from the bowels, you have an almost certain remedy within your power. This plan of treatment I intend to follow up for the present, as altogether the most favourable I have yet observed. I have the honour to be, &c. &c.,

JOHN ANDERSON, M.D.,
Surgeon, R.N.

To the Secretary of the Central Board
of Health.

No. 2.

Letter from Dr. LEWINS of Leith.

Leith, June 14.

SIR,—Circumstances have prevented me from transmitting an account of a fatal case of cholera referred to in my letter to you of the 27th ult., sooner. Death took place in the case alluded to, ten hours after the circulation had been restored by means of copious saline injections into the veins: the patient previously suffering severely from symptoms characteristic of fatal abdominal derangement, and these not attributable, I believe, to the means employed to rescue him, and which succeeded from death in another shape. In the space of two or three hours the venous injection has produced the astonishing effects already repeatedly mentioned, the patient appeared to do well; after which, however, he began to complain of distention and uneasiness in the bowels. This was followed by great restlessness and distress, until death closed the agonizing scene.

The symptoms in this case were exactly similar to those which I have observed when complete loss of functional power in the intestinal canal had taken place, as a cause or effect of obstruction, or from mortification or perforation of the intestines. A difference of opinion existed in the minds of my able and respectable colleagues of the Leith Cholera Hospital, as to the immediate cause of death in this case, before an examination of the body took place; and my talented friend Dr. Mackintosh, of Edinburgh, whose indefatigable zeal in the cause of medical science is scarcely equalled, certainly not surpassed by any man alive, thought it probable that we should find a ruptured blood-vessel in the abdomi-

nal cavity. But upon dissection all the viscera were found sound, the intestines were enormously distended; the bladder perfectly empty and firmly contracted; there was no effusion of any kind into the cavity of the abdomen. The veins were, perhaps, more turgid than natural, but not so as to attract particular attention; upwards of seven pounds of fluid, of the kind usually evacuated in cholera, were found in the bowels. The distention of the abdomen, the supervention of distressing symptoms, and ultimately the death of the patient, was, I have no doubt, the effect of total want of functional power in the intestinal canal, a condition which I have sometimes observed to take place, although I do not remember to have seen it particularly noticed by medical writers during the progress of other diseases. My conclusion in regard to the case of cholera now under consideration is, that paralysis of the intestinal canal occasioned or increased by the copious venous injections, was the cause of death, an opinion to which I shall have occasion to revert in explaining other conclusions I am inclined to draw from our late experience of this most extraordinary disease, and which I shall speak of fully in a future communication. In the mean time I may, in my opinion, remark that the failures we have witnessed afford no real objection to the practice of treating cholera by venous injections: a method of medical treatment which, as I said before, will, I predict, lead to important changes and improvements in the practice of medicine; and will entitle Dr. Latta's name to be placed amongst the number of those, alas! how few, who have really contributed to the improvement of the healing art.

In a late number of a medical journal a writer, in speaking of the Leith and Edinburgh cholera cases that have been treated by venous injection, seems to imagine that the patients who died, did so in consequence of phlebitis; that is not the fact, there has not been a single case of death from that cause. I have the honour to be, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

ROBERT LEWINS.

To the Secretary of the Central Board
of Health.

No. 3.

*Letter from Dr. LATTA, of Leith, detailing
Three Cases, of which one was successful.*

Leith, June 16th.

SIR,—Since my last communication, I have subjected to the influence of venous injection a few more cases of cholera, which occurred during my week at hospital superintendence. A few circumstances in