

medicine without relief, and was fast sinking into a state of collapse—hands becoming cold, and pulse failing.

Without the slightest effect I tried successively hydrocyanic acid, chloroform in spirits of wine—which have been much employed here—morphia, and bismuth. I sat with him for some time watching him, and found that whatever was introduced into the stomach, whether medicine, food, or cold water, was instantly rejected; so that it was impossible that any drug given in the ordinary way could produce its effect. I then determined to try the inhalation of chloroform, after the following manner. First, I caused him to inhale a small quantity of the vapour, sufficient merely to quiet the stomach for the moment, without producing insensibility; he was then got to swallow half a grain of morphia, and immediately was put fully under the influence of chloroform, and kept so for a few minutes; when sensibility returned, he declared himself free from all feeling of sickness. He was then kept sufficiently under the influence of chloroform to prevent vomiting, for an hour and a quarter. When this time had elapsed, he became drowsy, the inhalation was discontinued; he slept for some time, and remained entirely free from sickness for twenty-four hours. Afterwards he had a slight return of vomiting, which was checked in the same way. He has now, except on one or two occasions, for several days continued free from vomiting, and appears likely to recover.

The principle of this mode of treatment is, to keep the stomach quiet by the inhalation of chloroform, until some powerful anti-emetic medicine has had time to affect the system; and from my experience of it, I should most strongly recommend its adoption to your numerous readers.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Oct. 1853.

GEORGE YEOMAN HEATH.

THE NATIONAL VACCINE INSTITUTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I beg to call attention to the imperfect condition of the lymph sent from the Institution. It has been to my certain knowledge often a source of complaint amongst the profession, that they have met with repeated failures in vaccination when using the lymph. I may say that I have repeatedly tried it, and almost invariably failed. For some time past I have not sent to the Institution, but obtained my supply elsewhere. It appears to me that the want of success arises from the ivory points being either imperfectly armed, or sent out with the lymph in too dry a state. If so, it arises from the want of attention in the officials whose duty it is to look after those who are immediately employed in sending out the required supplies. Surely every precaution should be taken to guarantee to the medical profession a supply of good recent lymph, to ensure success in vaccination. At a time when the new Bill is in operation, it is of the utmost consequence that the medical officers appointed by the guardians should be able to obtain it in a good condition. I have been subjected to considerable inconvenience from the bad management of the Institution, and, if things continue as before, I shall feel it my duty to correspond with the Home Secretary, and lay before him a grievance of which we justly complain. I may add that the lymph I obtain from another source on ivory points never has, I believe, failed. Hoping you will, Sir, call attention to this subject,

October, 1853.

I remain yours truly,
A. B.

SWARMS OF FLIES IN NEWCASTLE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—In the number of THE LANCET for October 1st, there is an interesting letter from a resident at Newcastle, who states that “immense swarms of a certain kind of fly,” are seen in the town, during the present visitation of cholera; it brings forcibly to my mind, that in the first outbreak of cholera at Montreal in June and July, 1832 (in which the fatality of the disease was quite equal, if not greater, than it is at Newcastle now), the atmosphere was loaded with a species of fly, called the “shad-fly,” to an unprecedented extent: the pavements were covered with them, and the air was clouded with this flying insect; for several days it was disagreeable to be out of doors, and thousands were destroyed by the feet of each individual in walking the streets. The circumstance attracted much attention from the inhabitants of Montreal at the time, and gave rise to many superstitious opinions from some of them. I do not wish to infer that cholera was produced by these flies, but merely to record the fact.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Lewes, Oct., 1853.

HENRY MOON, M.D.

GRATUITOUS ADVICE.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—The statements on the subject of gratuitous advice, put forth in THE LANCET of 8th inst., by your correspondent “Justitia,” do not, but from the prominence you have given them, merit a reply. But as they are calculated to mislead some of your readers, who have had no opportunities of observing the working of the dispensary system, a few remarks may not be out of place. In attempting to discover the motives that have prompted the effusion of your correspondent, I am inclined to ask—Does he figure in my illustrations? or has he some time-honoured interest in dispensary abuses and pauperism? He, with more candour than discretion, admits that “he is advantaged by his peculiar position in respect to the working classes.” Is he afraid of losing those advantages? That “Justitia’s” feelings have been considerably irritated, and that his interests have been attacked by the gratuitous advice correspondence, is clearly evidenced by the absence of argument, and the wholesale abuse in which he has permitted himself to indulge.

An unprejudiced man would have perceived that the abuses carried on at dispensaries under the name of charity, were only recorded in my letter, and not occasioned by it. When a man deliberately accuses another of making assertions which are “unjust and untrue,” of drawing inferences which are “reckless,” of giving illustrations which are “exaggerated and exclusive,” and all this without the slightest show of evidence, we naturally conclude that his judgment is in abeyance, and that he is entirely governed by the violence of his passions.

Hear “Justitia”—“he emphatically agrees with the main fact and principle of the question at issue,” and although he calls me “reckless” in stating that indiscriminate gratuitous advice is injurious to the working classes, by counteracting their spirit of independence, yet “he fully admits that receiving gratuitous medical advice, or any other gratuitous benefit, does counteract their spirit of independence!” Whether “Justitia” is in danger of losing his independence, by such insane absurdities and contradictions, I shall leave others to determine.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Oct. 1853.

M. D.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. ROBERT DUNDAS THOMSON.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Agreeably to instructions of the committee, I now forward you a copy of a congratulatory address, the original of which has this day been transmitted to Dr. Thomson; and beg most respectfully to solicit the honour and favour of your insertion of it in THE LANCET.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

ROBERT KIRKWOOD, Secretary to Committee.

Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, Oct. 1853.

TO ROBERT D. THOMSON, M.D., F.R.S.ED., F.Ch.S.L., &c., &c.

SIR,—We, students of chemistry lately under your tuition in the University of Glasgow, are happy to understand that you have again resumed your accustomed scientific labours and professional instructions. Although Glasgow is not now the sphere of your duties, we who have had the benefit of your tuition in that city have, and shall continue to retain, a grateful remembrance of your valuable services. We are, on public grounds, glad that so able an instructor as yourself has found an appropriate field for his talents and attainments; and have, therefore, very great pleasure in congratulating you on your appointment to the chair of Chemistry in St. Thomas’s Hospital, London.

We have anxiously waited such a result, confident that a reputation like yours, so well and nobly earned, and so ably sustained by the testimony of many distinguished scientific men, and particularly by the illustrious Liebig, might well justify the Directors of the Institution with which you are now connected, in conferring the chair on one whom the greatest modern chemist has declared to have done more for animal chemistry than any other chemist in England, and whose original and published researches have furnished indisputable proofs of his activity and love for science, and secured for himself a place among chemists of the first rank in England and Europe. Permit us to state that we take a deep interest in your increasing usefulness and growing professional eminence, and shall hail with satisfaction every additional testimony that your future studies may furnish, of your continued

devotion to that science which you have hitherto cultivated with such distinguished success.

With our warmest wishes for your personal health and happiness,

We remain,

Your obliged and affectionate friends and students,

GEORGE LADE, M.D.	BRUCE GOFF, M.D.
DANIEL DEWAR, M.D.	JOHN B. COWAN, M.D.
EBEN. WATSON, M.D.	ANDREW F. ANDERSON.
L. F. PATON.	JAMES KING.
ROBERT KIRKWOOD.	DAVID EASTON.
JOHN PINKERTON, JUN.	W. KEDDIE.
D. FAIRLY, M.D.	WILLIAM YOUNG.
ALEXANDER ROBERTSON.	JOSEPH DICKSON, M.D.
JAMES T. DONALD.	JAMES GORMAN.
WILLIAM LEISHMAN.	CHARLES TENNANT COWPER.
EDWIN HIGGINBOTTON.	JAMES ALSTON DYKES.
WILLIAM GREENLEES.	HAMILTON MICHELL, Ch.
DAVID WADDEN.	ROBERT A. MACNAB.
ROBERT LAMBIE.	AND. FERGUSON, M.R.C.S.E.
ALLAN CAMERON, M.D.	JOHN ROBERTSON.
JAMES KING.	WILLIAM CRICHTON.
CHARLES M. KING.	JOHN L. DUNN.
JOHN MCEWAN, JUN. M.D.	DAVID TAYLOR, M.D.
MALCOLM RAMSEY.	W. C. SMITH.
JOHN FERGUSON.	ANGUS MACKAY.
DAVID MACKAY, M.A.	W. F. LEWIS.
L. A. OSBORNE.	T. LOWTHER MATHEWS.
SPENCER E. ORR.	JAMES GEORGE WILSON.
ALEXANDER ORR.	SPENCER BOYD GIBB.
DAVID DUNCAN, JUN.	JAMES MCINTYRE.
CHARLES F. MCLACHLAN.	DAVID WALKER.
DAVID MILLER.	THOMAS P. MILLER.
ROBERT DAVIDSON.	ALEX. A. MCDOWALL, M.D.
JOHN L. STEWART, M.D.	CHARLES MORTON.
GEORGE WILLIAM BROWN.	THOMAS ROBERTS.
R. M. MURRAY.	GEORGE DICKIE.
J. M. D. BOYD.	RODERICK A. COUPER.
JAMES MURDOCH.	GEORGE MURDOCH.
JOHN RITCHIE BROWN, M.D.	JAMES GUNMEL, JUN.

Glasgow, Oct., 1853.

THE CHOLERA.

It will be seen, by the following reports, that the cholera has almost entirely ceased in Newcastle, and with the exception of isolated cases in several towns of the North, and in some districts of the metropolis, the disease seems to be in abeyance. The future, however, of the disease is not to be correctly judged of by this circumstance; and it is, therefore, the duty of the local authorities to continue their means of prevention with unabated vigour. The present outbreak of the epidemic has given further evidence, if any such were needed, of the sad influences which bad ventilation, bad drainage, and bad water have on its extension. Every district in which the disease has made its appearance during the present outbreak, has been filthy and badly supplied with water. In various towns and villages in the north sanitary measures are being carried out with vigour; and in the metropolis, in most of the parishes, the streets are daily cleansed, and a house-to-house visitation has been instituted, to inquire into the presence of nuisances, with a view to their removal. This proceeding has been attended with the best results. In addition to these precautionary measures, means have been taken by the various parochial boards, and by the governors of hospitals and dispensaries, to supply persons affected with diarrhoea, with immediate attendance and medicines. The course of the disease during its present visitation, tends to show that its prevention is clearly within reach of sanitary measures.

(From the General Board of Health, Whitehall.)

OCTOBER 6.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Deaths, Cholera, 10; Diarrhoea, 1.

The total number of deaths from cholera and diarrhoea in Newcastle during the present outbreak has been 1438. In the same period (viz., the first 35 days) during the prevalence of epidemic cholera there in 1831-2, the number of deaths was 255.

GATESHEAD.—Death, Oct. 5, Cholera, 1.

The total number of deaths from cholera and diarrhoea in Gateshead to the present date, has been 387. During the like period (viz., the first 29 days) in 1831-2, the deaths amounted to 141.

DUNSE, N.B.—Death, Oct. 4, Cholera 1.

GUISBOROUGH.—Death, Oct. 4, Cholera, 1.

NOTTING HILL.—Death, Oct. 4, Cholera, 1.

At Walker, 6 more deaths from cholera have been reported, making 13 deaths since Monday night. At Newburn, 2 deaths have occurred. Dr. Gavin has appointed to visit this place, with the Duke of Northumberland's agent, on Friday. Two visitors have been sent to Stockton, to aid in carrying out more efficiently the house-to-house visitation system, already commenced.

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.—From the reports of the medical officers of this union, it appears that they have had under their care 702 cases of diarrhoea since the 1st instant, not one of which, in consequence of prompt treatment, has passed on to cholera, or terminated fatally. On the other hand, 4 cases of cholera have occurred, 3 of which have proved fatal.

From a return of the pilot-master of Londonderry, it appears that on board the bark *Virginia*, from Gottenburg to New York and New Orleans, there have occurred between September the 4th and September the 30th, 8 deaths from cholera.

METROPOLIS.—A fatal case occurred in the York-road, Waterloo-road, on the 3rd inst.; one also at the bottom of Stangate-street, Westminster-bridge-road. Since the beginning of the week several deaths have taken place in the low, filthy courts and streets in the Borough, and there has been a large increase of bowel complaints in several districts.

OCTOBER 7.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Deaths, Cholera, 10; Diarrhoea, 1.

The total number of deaths from cholera and diarrhoea in Newcastle during the present outbreak has been 1449. In the same period (viz., the first 36 days) during the prevalence of epidemic cholera there in 1831-2, the number of deaths was 255.

BATHGATE.—Death, Oct. 3, Cholera, 1.

LEITH.—Death, Sept. 29, Cholera, 1.—Oct. 1, Cholera 1.

BEDLINGTON.—Deaths, Oct. 6, Cholera, 2.

GATESHEAD.—Deaths, Oct. 6, Cholera, 4; Diarrhoea, 1.

The total number of deaths from cholera and diarrhoea in Gateshead to the present date, has been 392. During the like period (viz., the first 30 days) in 1831-2, the deaths amounted to 141.

THE METROPOLIS, Oct. 7.—One case of cholera occurred on the 5th inst. in Hanover-street, Rotherhithe. The patient, a poor man, was found lying on straw on the damp floor of a miserable shed of a house surrounded with filth, and admitting the rain through the tiling. He had suffered from neglected diarrhoea for two or three days previously. Hanover-street suffered most severely in 1849. A man was received the day before yesterday from the street into the Bermondsey Workhouse, in which two or three wards have been prepared for the reception of necessitous cholera cases. Yesterday he was in an improved state.

On Monday, the 4th instant, a deputation of the Board of Guardians of the township of Walker, in the parish of Long Benton, waited upon Dr. Gavin, Inspector of the General Board of Health, to request his aid in consequence of an outbreak of cholera. Walker itself contained, at the last census, 3211 inhabitants. The population is partly situate by the river side, and chiefly near various works; those by the river side are partly occupied in the iron ship building; those at the iron and alkali works, about 1400 persons, are engaged by the Walker Iron and Alkali Works. There are about 700 or 800 houses. Walker is about a mile and a half from Wall's-end, where there had been seven or eight cases. On the early morning of the 13th ult., the first fatal case occurred. At that time there was much choleraic diarrhoea, which in almost every instance put on the character of approaching cholera (rice-water purging).

Two isolated fatal cases had occurred, one on the 19th, the other on the 26th; a third isolated case was at West Moor, five miles off, and not in the township.

On Thursday last there had been in the township forty cases of cholera, and about 400 cases of diarrhoea. Nine deaths, exclusive of the above isolated case, had occurred.

This township had suffered very severely in the last epidemic, but while about 2000 persons suffered in a comparatively small degree, one row of houses containing 48 rooms, 32 tenants with their families, had 45 cases.

The whole locality appeared to have received a destructive cholera stroke during the night. Monday had given no additional warning to the inhabitants. Next morning seven had perished, and cholera in its malignant form had seized on the panic-stricken people, many of whom now fled. The utmost difficulty was found in obtaining assistance to bury the dead.