experience, than presumptuous and arrogant youth—has dared to insult men infinitely his superiors in scientific attainments, or professional acquirements, by writing a common-place prescription for them (which I need not tell you has not been adopted by one of them), and bringing down seventeen unknown men, many of them *homœopaths*, to inspect the practice of the Union, and other surgeons, but chiefly to *act as spies*; soliciting charges which they have preferred against the medical men at one of the meetings of the Board of Guardians, when one of these charges was preferred by one of Dr. Hector's seventeen Trojans. The Doctor said "he was sorry he had employed the person who made the charge."

Mr. Editor.—In the midst of pestilence, medical men have always done their duty, and their conduct in Newcastle has been beyond all praise: but such conduct as Dr. Gavin's obstructs the voluntary efforts of the medical men; who very properly refuse to be dictated to by one so undeserving of the name of a gentleman, and who, armed with the insolent authority of office, on their refusal dares to suspend them.

"Hereditary bondsmen! Know ye not,
Who would be free—themselves must strike the blow."

Mr. Editor.—The reports from the Board of Health in *The Times* are false and inaccurate, evidently cooked by Dr. Hector, to puff off his own importance and to prove the efficacy of the board that employs him.

I now ask what is to become of the whole of the towns of England and their professional men, when their turn comes to be visited by the Board of Health.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE GIBSON, M.R.C.S.E., L.A.C., &c.

Birtley, Sept. 26, 1853.

Surgeon to Birtley Iron Works.

ROUGH CIDER IN CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR.—In cases of Choleraic Diarrhœa, sour rough sound cider as a common beverage, abstaining from all other food for a day or two, except biscuit or toasted bread, will restrain the discharge in a short time, as will many other acids.

The shell sands on the north coasts of Cornwall, Devon and other parts of England are the best cheap deodorizing agents now known, and are procurable in any quantity without any expense except carriage.

I remain, yours truly,

W. MITCHELL, M.D.

Winsford, Dulverton,
Sept. 29th, 1853.

CHLOROFORM IN CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR.—I read lately in your correspondence a proposal to use chloroform as a remedy for cholera, with this among other objects; that it would give time for the application of more direct antidotes. When it is considered how entirely ignorant we are of the cause of Asiatic cholera, and consequently of its antidotes, it is fair to institute experiments on certain presumptions. It is possible that the disorder may proceed from a fungus, the seeds of which may float in the air, and affect the stomach and bowels. If so, it may be assumed that the sulphite of soda may be an antidote. It would be fair to try it, either during the calm produced by chloroform, or earlier in the disease, before chloroform is needed.

Your most obedient,
M. D.

CROTON OIL IN CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR.—As cholera is again rife amongst us, and as yet we are quite ignorant of any medicine which can be called a "specific" amongst the multifarious drugs and nostrums of the quacks which have been vaunted forward to flourish only for a time, and at length are consigned to the tomb of oblivion, I am induced to make a few remarks on the treatment of this direful enemy by the croton oil. During the year 1849, when the cholera was making such havoc amongst the densely populated neighbourhood of Bilston, where I was then residing, I had ample opportunities of witnessing the beneficial effects which resulted from the administration of this oil. It was given in the dose of one or two drops on a small piece of loaf-sugar, and repeated every two or three hours if the vomiting and purging continued, at the same time applying hot bricks or bags of sand and salt to the feet. By this treatment I have seen, on several

occasions, patients recover from the stage of collapse, when to the bystanders it seemed an impossibility to bring them to a haven of safety; but in a short time after the oil had been administered the warmth began to return to the surface of the body, and the pulse became at the same time perceptible at the wrist. As to its *modus operandi* I offer no remarks; suffice it to say that it does not act as a purgative in this disease.

In conclusion, I beg to state that I do not bring this forward as a new remedy, or as a specific for the disease, but merely call the attention of those practitioners who have to grapple with so formidable a foe to give it a fair and unprejudiced trial; and should they witness the same benefit from its use which I have done, that they will report the same in your valuable journal, as an inducement to others to try its effects.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Wolverhampton, Sept. 1853.

HENRY HANCOX, M.D.

THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA BY ACIDS.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR.—I have advocated the acid treatment of cholera for many years—vide LANCET, Vol. XI., 1845—for although cholera is not always present, nevertheless, occasional cases are met with much resembling that disease, and requiring every exertion and ingenuity to treat it. I treated the disease, in the epidemic we had in 1849, with nitromuriatic acid, giving it diluted with water, as ordinary drink, and in larger doses, when the vomiting and diarrhœa were urgent. I found it effectual in all cases not reduced to the stage of collapse. I believe it to be equally efficient with sulphuric acid, for I use it now, and we have abundant means of testing its value, choleraic diarrhœa and vomitings being so common at this time in Carlisle. It is the *acid treatment* that has done most good in this disease. The Faculty in Austria recommend it. I have seen it mentioned that in the cyder counties no cholera has shown itself; and Birmingham has been exempt; and I am told that a large quantity of *hard ale* is drunk there. This is so contrary to the general opinion, that physicians urge the necessity of avoiding fruits and ale, *et hoc genus omne*. I recommend the free use of cooked apples, and the free use of acids. In my own family I give a very diluted solution of nitro-muriatic acid for drink at dinner. I have done this for years with very great benefit both to digestion and general health and spirits. I would recommend it to all it may agree with, for every one cannot take it. There are some constitutions it makes ill; it causes them a coldness and pain at the stomach, and a shivering all over: these people are probably out of the influence of cholera. The people it agrees with in general have a flabby, creamy tongue, bearing the impression of the teeth. There seems some peculiarity here, as if there was an element or salt, such as urea or uric acid, or some urate covering the mucous membrane, and which the acid dissolves, and so relieves the membrane both in the mouth and stomach, &c. For after using the acid the tongue is no more flabby and creamy, but clean, firm, and of a good colour, and the mouth feels clean to the patient. It is the treatment for cholera: mineral acids, whether sulphuric or nitromuriatic, and counter-irritation to rouse the spinal nerves.

Believe me, yours very faithfully,

Carlisle, Oct. 3, 1853.

W. REEVES.

TREATMENT OF CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR.—Having seen a vast deal of Asiatic cholera in my extensive travels round the world, in Europe, Asia, Africa, and America, more especially in India and California, and having had much experience of that dire disease during its first visitation in England in 1832, at which time I was Secretary to one of the local Boards of Health, and consequently well acquainted with the different modes of treatment by the several medical practitioners, and their results, I therefore am desirous of laying before my professional brethren, briefly, through the medium of your wide circulating columns, the treatment that I found most efficacious.

I have seen every plan tried,—counter-irritation, brandy and laudanum, brandy and capsicum, cold affusion, transfusion, Stevens' saline with soda, chloride of sodium, and chloride of potash. The Australian sulphuric plan, mustard emetics, salt emetics, calomel and opium, opium and astrinents, acetate of lead inclusive, calomel in large doses of one drachm every hour, and small doses of one grain every quarter of an hour, and many others too numerous to mention; some certainly with partial success, but all infinitely inferior in efficacy to the plan