now speaking as a standard of comparison. How far it may be depended upon as a test will appear from what follows.

If tartaric acid in solution be added to a solution of pure iodide of potassium, the commixed solutions are at first colourless, but quickly become slightly yellow, owing to the action of atmospheric oxygen on the hydriodic acid which is thus generated.

On making this experiment with the salt in question, I found, to my great astonishment, that free iodine, in quantity, was instantly developed. I was at first at a loss to account for so great a difference in the behaviour of this salt to that which I had prepared myself, and knew to be pure iodide of potassium; but, from the appearance of the crystals of this salt, and from the circumstance of its not being soluble in water to the extent that it should be, I suspected the existence of iodate of potash in it, and I have since convinced myself of the fact of its presence.

I find, if we add tartaric acid solution to a solution of iodate of potash, no change of colour takes place, but that bitartrate of potash is deposited in abundance, and, as a matter of course, iodic acid set at liberty, this solution instantly decomposes iodide of potassium in solution, giving rise to free iodine in great abundance; or, if we add a drop of solution of tartaric acid to a solution of pure iodide of potassium, to which even a minute quantity of iodate of potash has been added, free iodine is instantly developed.

Tartaric acid appears, then, from the experiments I have made, to be a very delicate test of the presence of iodate of potash in iodide of potassium, and will be found a very ready and useful one for this purpose in the hands of the dispensing chemist, showing him that any specimen of this salt in which free iodine is thus developed, is actually of less value than one in which no trace of iodine appears on the instant of its application; inasmuch as iodide of potassium, in a given weight, includes more iodine than iodate of potash does; as is seen at once by the atomic composition of these two salts.

It is well known to every chemist, that one of the methods very commonly resorted to for the production of iodide of potassium is that of acting upon iodine with potash water. In this way we form iodate of potash at the same time; six atoms of potash and six atoms of iodine giving birth to five atoms of iodide of potassium, and one atom of iodate of potash; which latter, if suffered to remain mixed with the iodide, would increase the produce of the manufactured salt nearly five per cent., at the expense of its purity and crystalline beauty.

CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR:—As it is probable that some cases of cholera may visit us again this season, I send you one that occurred in my practice last week; not from anything novel in the case, or its treatment, but because the latter was so successful that I think it worthy of being adopted by those who have not already had recourse to it under similar circumstances. I shall not contend whether the case was one of English or Asiatic cholera, but leave your readers to draw their own conclusions on that point.

I was sent for early last Thursday morning to see a stout elderly woman, who had been seized with diarrhœa on the previous day, without any assignable cause. I found her cold, pale, and pulseless, with constant vomiting and purging, attended with violent cramps in the legs. There had been an incessant drain from the bowels, of a colourless fluid, which had passed involuntarily during the night, and had saturated the bed. There was no pain in the bowels, nor any other existing particular symptom, save a great prostration of strength. A large mustard plaster (made with boiling vinegar) was instantly applied from the sternum to the umbilicus; and a grain and a half of calomel was ordered to be given every hour in a powder, and ten grains of carbonate of potass, dissolved in cinnamon water, immediately after each dose.

I found on my next visit, at the expiration of three hours, that the plaster had been removed after three quarters of an hour, having given great pain during the last quarter. Complete reaction had taken place, and the vomiting was arrested. In the evening the symptoms were so much alleviated, that the calomel and potass were given through the night every two hours. On the following morning, after taking ten doses of calomel, the motions having become dark, fœtid, and bilious, it was discontinued, and a mixture, with rhubarb, magnesia, and cordial confection, was substituted. On the following day this was succeeded by an infusion of cascarilla, with carbonate of potass. The patient is now convalescent. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM MOSS.

Windsor, August 24, 1840.

*** The common cholera of this country has latterly been very prevalent; so has the half-ripe fruit.

THEORY.—To form a theory is to look from on high, and seize upon certain relations, just as from the highest tower of a town we are enabled to embrace at one view its streets and buildings, and comprehend the relative position of its principal features and suburbs.