

At nine P.M. I inserted five catgut bougies of about four inches in length, along the urethra into the bladder; at ten P.M., three more; at twelve A.M., four more; at four A.M., two more; at eight A.M. they had all fallen out, whereupon I then inserted fifteen bougies; at ten A.M., three more; at eleven A.M., four more, making in all twenty-two bougies. The passage then seemed to be well dilated, so I drove into Newbury to fetch my friend Mr. Bursey, who had undertaken to give the lady chloroform. I had to see some patients at home, so that it was well on in the afternoon when I again reached her house.

At five minutes to six P.M. Mr. Bursey began to give chloroform; at twenty-five minutes past that hour the stone was in my hand. It was of a lithic character, measured three inches and three-quarters in its longer circumference, and three inches in its shorter, and weighed half an ounce and twelve grains.

In three days the patient fully retained her water; and when I saw her in about a fortnight after the operation she was quite well.

The only manner in which I deviated from the rules laid down by Dr. Humphry was, in the not using the thread for tying the bougies together, and in discarding the bandages over the os externum and round the waist. I applied them at the outset, but found that the movements of the patient displaced the vertical bandage and thus disturbed the bougies, tending to draw them out of the urethra.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. E. RYOTT,

Newbury, Sept. 1866.

Surgeon to the Newbury Infirmary.

ON THE DISINFECTING METHOD OF TREATING CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I notice in your number of August 11th, in a communication from Dr. W. C. Maclean, a proposal from Dr. Parkes to give a fair trial to the disinfecting method of treating cholera.

As I had long determined to adopt this treatment in any cases that might come under my care, deeming it to be the only rational method, I think it my duty to request a small space in your journal for the insertion of my views upon the matter. Starting from the known fact that the choleraic poison in the discharges becomes inert when attacked by disinfectants, it seems to me of the utmost importance that the same principle of treatment should be applied internally. The indications are to meet this poison as far as possible throughout the system—in the lungs, in the stomach and bowels—by agents which may be taken largely, while at the same time no injury shall accrue through their action to the system. With this view I propose to administer incessantly large doses of animal charcoal and other innocuous disinfectants, and to impregnate the air with chlorinated and ozonised oxygen vapours.

The Great Fire of London banished the plague: this effect was due doubtless to the disinfecting qualities contained in the vapours arising from the smouldering wood. Is it not of importance that we should imitate this tremendous lesson, and make use of it to meet this fearful and insidious foe? and would it not be a good plan for all attendants upon cholera patients to take occasional doses of the charcoal, and keep a lozenge of the same continually in their mouths? for assuredly cholera is a communicable disease, and by a poison which can be destroyed by disinfectants.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

Camden-road, Sept. 5th, 1866.

ROBT. WESTLEY, M.D.

LIVERPOOL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CHOLERA must still be my theme. A great increase has occurred in the number of deaths, no less than 225 having died last week, which, as compared with the number of deaths (146) in the preceding week, shows an increase of 79. It is widening in its area, 33 deaths from cholera having occurred in the out-townships, against 19 the week before; the focus of the greatest intensity remaining the same—viz., in Scotland Ward, where

122 out of the 225 deaths took place; 50 of these were in the Ashfield cholera-sheds, which are situated in this ward. The total number admitted to these sheds up to September 3rd has been 309; deaths, 159; cured, 124; leaving 26 under treatment. To the cholera wards of the Liverpool Workhouse, the total number admitted has been 224: 101 deaths, 91 discharged, 32 under treatment. In the town 123 deaths have occurred during the week of patients at their own homes from cholera. The deaths from diarrhoea have been 78. The arrangements seem now very complete in all parts of the borough, except Toxteth-park, for combating the disease. In the latter township the guardians are evidently waiting in the "good" old style for a more violent onslaught of the enemy before adopting sufficient preventive measures; fifteen deaths in the week in their district not being sufficient to alarm them. In the other parts of the town five cholera dispensaries have been opened, with a staff of seven medical officers to each, three of whom are on duty four hours each, and attend all cases brought to the dispensary. The other four are on duty eight hours each, and visit cases at their own homes. From 150 to 200 applications are attended to daily at each of these dispensaries. Of course the great majority of the applicants are suffering only from the premonitory symptoms. Besides these, there are the cholera hospitals, three in number, for the reception of all cases willing to be removed to them.

The result of the licensing session, to which I alluded last week, has been that the number of public-houses in the borough has been reduced by twenty-two; forty-one licences having been revoked, and only nineteen new ones granted.

September 4th, 1866.

Medical News.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentleman passed his examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received a certificate to practise, on Aug. 30th:—

Charles Read, Falmouth.

The following gentlemen also on the same day passed their first examination:—

Charles Henry Furnivall, Westminster Hospital; Alfred Kelly, King's College Hospital; Frank Henry Laking, St. George's Hospital.

THE Board of Guardians of the Strand Union have declined by a large majority the services of lady nurses.

THE Bishop of London has paid another visit to the various institutions in connexion with the outbreak of cholera at the east end of London.

FROM the report of the London Dwellings Society (Limited) it appears that their capital has increased to £24,800.

CHOLERA still continues its ravages in various parts of Bohemia.

THE guardians of the Greenwich Union have determined to allow the medical officer an assistant, and to provide the drugs, &c., instead of requiring them to be furnished by the house-surgeon.

THE Prussian army lost many of its men from cholera in Bohemia.

ACCORDING to recent accounts the cholera is rather on the increase at Genoa, and some apprehension is felt at Florence.

STATURE OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS.—Dr. Gould states that men born in America reach their maximum height at twenty-eight years of age, but that the age for maximum stature comes earliest in the States where the height is found to be the greatest.

No less than 1100 Prussian soldiers have died of cholera at Brünn in the course of the last two months.

FOUR wards have been opened at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Chatham, containing twenty beds, for the treatment of ophthalmic patients.

THE Empress of Hungary has left Pesth in consequence of the prevalence of cholera there.

THE Commissioners despatched to the lazarets and field hospitals by the Patriotic Help Association (Hilfsverein) of Vienna, have just published a long and interesting report.