

hended that under the Act passed in the session of Parliament held in the sixteenth and seventeenth years of the reign of her present Majesty, chapter ninety-six, and the Lunatic Asylums Act, 1853, any Graduate of the University of London practising as a physician, if not otherwise answering to the definition of a physician set forth in the interpretation clauses to such Acts, who may have signed any certificates under those Acts, or either of them, in which he shall have been described as a physician, is liable to be indicted for a misdemeanour: Be it enacted, That all such Graduates in Medicine of the said University of London who have so practised physic, or have so done any such act, or signed any such certificate as aforesaid, shall be indemnified, freed, and discharged from all such forfeitures, pains, penalties, and disabilities as they would or might have been exempt from had they taken their several degrees at, or obtained authority or licence to practise from either of the said Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and that all such acts and certificates heretofore done or signed by any Graduate in Medicine of the said University of London shall be deemed to all intents and purposes as valid and effectual as if this Act had passed previously to the doing or signing such acts and certificates respectively.

III. *Short Title.*—This Act may be cited as “The University of London Medical Graduates Act, 1854.”

BICHLORIDE OF MERCURY IN CHOLERA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I read with much pleasure, in THE LANCET of Saturday last, the suggestions of Mr. Wearne with regard to the use of the bichloride of mercury in cholera. Your correspondent will be glad to learn that Mr. Rumbold, of Eldon-street, and myself have been in the habit of using this remedy for some time past, and that its administration has been followed in several cases with signal success. In justice to Mr. Rumbold, I must state that he was the first person who suggested to me the value of the remedy in question. The same arguments which led Mr. Wearne to recommend its use were those which occurred to my own mind. In severe cases of cholera calomel is useless. We want a soluble and powerful cholagogue, capable of acting immediately on the liver. In the year 1832, when I saw more of cholera in Scotland than I have ever seen since, and more than I ever hope to witness again, calomel was at one period of the epidemic the medicine most in vogue. It was, however, abandoned by many medical men, in consequence of the serious results which often followed its use. Large quantities of calomel, which remained perfectly inert during the stage of depression, often produced a deleterious influence when reaction was established, and at a time when its specific action was not required. Sloughing of the rectum was a common occurrence.

In severe cases of cholera I give one-eighth of a grain of the bichloride, combined with ten minims of laudanum, and repeat the dose every one or two hours, until green motions appear. I then suspend its use. It must not be forgotten that the remedy is a highly dangerous one, and that it should be administered with due caution.

A most severe case of cholera, which very recently came under my care, evinced in a striking manner the efficacy of the bichloride. The patient, a young man, twenty-one years of age, was seized with shivering, and in seven hours the worst symptoms of cholera were developed. Slight reaction had taken place when I was called in, but vomiting and purging continued, and the tongue was cold. I gave the one-eighth of a grain of bichloride, combined with laudanum, every two hours. After four doses the evacuations became green.

This patient lived in a house to which there was neither surface nor underground drainage. Should such a state of things be suffered to exist in the first metropolis in the world, and in the nineteenth century?

For the two following cases I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Rumbold:—

“A gentleman, aged thirty-eight, occupied at Billingsgate, and living in the City, after partaking freely of lobster in the evening, was seized with distressing diarrhoea about two o'clock the following morning, (August 22nd.) When seen at five A.M., he stated that his bowels had been acted on between twenty and thirty times, the motions then having the appearance of rice-water; slight nausea, but no vomiting; pain in epigastrium; great depression; coldness of extremities, and slight cramp; countenance anxious, with a dark halo around the eyes. Ordered, liquor of bichloride of mercury, two drachms; tincture of opium, ten minims, with water. This was repeated in half

an hour, and ordered to be given every second hour; occasionally warm water and brandy, and bottles of hot water to the feet. The bowels were not again acted on for about two hours, when the motion evidently contained bile. By twelve (noon) he appeared comfortable; diarrhoea ceased. Ordered, aromatic confection, one drachm; compound tincture of cinchona, six drachms; aromatic spirit of ammonia, two drachms; camphor mixture, three ounces; one fourth part every four hours. The case terminated favourably.

“A female, aged fourteen, residing near Holborn, returned from the country, August 23rd. The following day she was seized with severe pains in the bowels, vomiting, and diarrhoea; complained of extreme chilliness and sensation of cramp. Ordered the bichloride of mercury and opium, as in the former case. After the second dose the matter vomited, from being similar to rice-water became green, and shortly ceased, as well as the diarrhoea. The treatment adopted was similar to that in the preceding case, and the patient recovered.”

In cases where the bichloride is contra-indicated, might not large doses of the nitro-hydrochloric acid be of service?

I remain, Sir, yours obediently,

Finsbury-square, September, 1854.

J. M. WINN.

TREATMENT OF CHOLERA BY SPIRITUOUS AFFUSION AND FRICTION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to add one more to the many suggestions already given forth touching the treatment of cholera. Having resided for the last three years in the city of New Orleans, and having been attached to the Charity Hospital of that city, I have probably had more numerous opportunities for witnessing the various forms of congestive and algid diseases than usually falls to the lot of practitioners in England. I wish therefore to draw attention to a mode of treatment which, common as it is with us in the south, seems comparatively unknown or unused here. I allude to our practice of external friction with some alcoholic stimulant. With us, in yellow and congestive fevers, in cholera, in typhus,—in fact, in all diseases characterized by extreme prostration and deficient circulation, it is as usual to prescribe for the exterior as for the interior of the body, and, from what I have seen, I think with great success. In these diseases we usually order the patient to be well rubbed over the whole body with whisky or spirits of wine, to which may be added, according to the exigencies of the case, spirits of camphor, tincture of bark, or aromatic spirit, and then to be thoroughly dried with a coarse towel, this alternate rubbing and drying to be done three times consecutively, and to be repeated at intervals varying from once every hour to once every three hours, or twice or thrice a day. In cases where the patient has almost seemed *in articulo mortis*, I have seen this adjunct to treatment produce the most surprising results, and even should it fail to cure, the sense of ease and of relief produced by it is (as I can state from personal experience) beyond description. By it the circulation is restored to its equilibrium, and the skin, hitherto cold and clammy, becomes immediately warm and moist; the patient is revived, and we have an opportunity of administering internal remedies with some better chance of success. The formula I would recommend is three parts of spirit of wine or strong whisky, and one part each of tincture of camphor, tincture of cinnamon, and tincture of bark, a sponge or flannel to be saturated with the mixture, and the patient to be well rubbed with it from head to foot, and then dried, as before directed; and I am convinced we should speedily find its benefit, not only in cholera, but in all forms of adynamic disease. At the same time, with regard to internal remedies in cholera, I may state I have found none so serviceable as salines, with occasionally a little mercury; and I have been in the habit of employing, with tolerable success, the following combination:—Muriate of ammonia, five grains; common salt, fifteen grains; to be dissolved in a tumbler of iced water, and given every hour, occasionally adding from the fifteenth to the twentieth of a grain of bichloride of mercury. In no disease, excepting perhaps the pernicious fevers of the tropics, is there so great a congestion upon internal organs as in cholera; and I conceive no plan of treatment can be so serviceable in relieving this, and in restoring the skin to its healthy action, as the one I have hinted at above, and which I have seen tried with such marked benefit.—I remain, your obedient servant,

J. L. CRAWCOUR, M.D., M.R.C.S.E.,
Fellow and Corresponding Secretary of the New Orleans
Academy of Sciences, and Member of the State
Medical Society of Louisiana, &c.

London, Aug. 1854.