

sat another daughter, apparently half-starved, partially covered with a dirty blanket. In this room, in which this wretched family had lived for twelve years, there was no fire-place or fire, nor the vestige of a bed or bedding. The air of the place was so highly contaminated, in consequence of an accumulation of filth in one corner of the room, that it alone, independent of the influence of contagion, was sufficient to give origin to the most virulent pestilential disease. This family subsisted on *two shillings a week*, which small sum they got from the parish in which they lived. I could not have thought for a moment that in a city like this, renowned for its wealthy and benevolent inhabitants, a scene so revolting to human nature could have existed. The only effectual way of stopping the progress of this pestilence is to remove the *predisposition of the poor*. Why is this disease, it is frequently asked, confined almost exclusively to the wretched hovels of the Irish poor? Because they are suffering from the most acute moral and physical depression. Give food to the hungry, clothe the naked, remove the filth from the habitations of the poor, and the cholera will quickly disappear. Some months ago we heard of sermons being preached and collections made for the starving poor in Ireland; have our clergymen no sympathy for the starving poor in this great city? Is there not *one* benevolent clergyman who will set the example, and devote one half hour, in pleading on behalf of the miserable, starving, poor in London? Eloquence might here find a theme on which to exhaust itself. Would that the departed spirit of the benevolent Howard could visit this city;—what would be his sensations! I hope, Sir, the daily press, instead of devoting their time to the discussion of the question of the existence or non-existence of Asiatic cholera in London, will endeavour to rouse the dormant sympathies of the benevolent, by pointing out to them the condition of the starving poor in this city. What say the Scriptures: "Blessed is he that considereth the poor; the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble."—Psalm xli. With every apology for occupying so much space in your Journal, believe me to be your obliged and obedient servant,

FORBES WINSLOW.

London, March 5, 1832.

* * When we remember the hundreds of thousands of pounds which were subscribed in England some years since for the starving poor in Ireland, we are astonished at the apathy with which the famine in London is regarded by the Cræsus who were then so prominent in charity.

RAPID EFFUSION OF SERUM.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—I shall be obliged by the insertion of the following case:—

On Saturday evening, Feb. 18, I was called to — Jones, æt. 7, who, three weeks before, had had scarlet fever very mildly, from which he perfectly recovered in a few days. When I arrived the child was evidently dying, but quite sensible, and complaining of pain, and some tenderness across the abdomen, the pain half an hour before having been so violent, that he was rolling about the floor in excruciating agony. There was vomiting, but mere y of what he had eaten a short time before. The bowels had acted two or three times; motions quite natural. The minds of the friends being intent on the reigning topic, they surmised that it was cholera. Although I could detect nothing poisonous in what the child had vomited, I gave him an emetic with diluents, the pain having decreased so much, that I did not think opium called for—indeed I looked upon the case as hopeless. The boy sank rapidly, and died the following morning.

On a post-mortem examination of the body the following day, we found the cavity of the pleura completely filled with serum, so that the two sides of the chest contained about two quarts. The pericardium also was so full, that on puncturing it the fluid issued in a full stream. On a section of the lungs, serum appeared to issue from their cellular structure. The cavity of the abdomen contained about a pint of fluid. The transverse arch of the colon was covered in places by a deposition of lymph.

The above case I consider interesting, on account of the *rapid* or *insidious* manner in which effusion took place, the child being originally so perfectly free from every symptom of disease, that two hours before I saw him he was playing with a battledore and shuttlecock. An hour before that he carried a large basket full of wood up some very steep stairs eighteen or twenty times. His mother said he was quite well the same day; his appetite was good; he was lively, and in good spirits; his breath was not the least short on lying down, or at any other time. He had had, the day before, a very slight cough, but not sufficient to attract notice. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

CHARLES H. SILVESTER.

6, Minerva Terrace, North Brixton,
March 3.