

Remarks.—In reviewing the case, one fact strikes us with considerable force, viz.—that this surprising development of the mammæ was not effected at the expense of any particular organ. It might readily have been supposed that the incessant demand on the animal economy for the growth and maintenance of such an enormous mass would in some way have retarded the development of the rest of the body. On the contrary, notwithstanding this irregular determination of the nutritive elements of the body, each organ seems to have received its full and legitimate supply. The uterus, whose sympathies are most intimately associated with the mammæ, does not appear to have suffered any diminution of its ordinary size from this connexion. Its functional derangement is perhaps explicable, from the fact, that the ovaria were diseased, and two-thirds of the secreting surface of the uterus were clogged with an exudation of coagulable lymph.

But for the early termination of this case, we might perhaps have been enabled to add an account of the successful extirpation of the mammæ. Diseased masses of nearly equal weight and dimensions have been removed without impairing the health or engendering a single bad symptom. From the healthy structure of these tumours, there is every reason to believe an operation would have been crowned with success, had an opportunity been presented before the surface of the mammæ had begun to ulcerate, or the constitution of the patient been shattered by disease.

ART. VIII. *An Endeavour to show that the Cholera, which existed on Folly Island, near Charleston, neither Arose from nor was Propagated by Means of Contagion.* By E. C. KECKELEY, M. D. of Charleston, S. C.

THE brig *Amelia*, Captain Dickinson, sailed from New York on the 19th of October, 1832, bound to New Orleans, with one hundred and odd passengers, of which number three or four only were cabin-passengers, the remainder steerage. The voyage was boisterous in the extreme, and they were much confined below. After being at sea six days, cholera broke out among the steerage passengers. The captain put in into Five-fathom Hole, intending to come into port on account of the leaky condition of the brig; but some accident happening to the cable, he was compelled again to put to sea. In crossing the bar the brig thumped several times severely, and caused the leak to increase to such a degree, that it was deemed necessary to run her ashore on the beach of Folly Island, to save the lives of the crew and passengers. This occurred on the 31st of October, 1832. From the commencement of the disease up to this period twenty-four persons had

died, and several remained sick. When the brig grounded, there were six feet water in her hold. The captain and one of the passengers who visited the city authorities, described the condition of the wrecked as one of "pitiable destitution and distress, and as calling for immediate relief." In consequence of this report, blankets, tents, and necessities, were sent down. Dr. ELFE, the deputy port-physician, visited the island, prescribed for the sick, and announced the nature of the disease on his return to the city.

A boat's crew of wreckers, who had gone down for the purpose of saving the vessel and cargo, having returned to the city, one of them was seized with cholera, and died in Elliott street, one among the most favourable places for the spread of a contagious malady. During this man's illness, he was visited by hundreds of persons, all of whom contagion took compassion on and spared, or who enjoyed the insusceptibility spoken of by the contagionists. The rest of the crew were ordered back to the island, and having embarked, two fell sick, and one died on the passage down.

"The wreckers were reported to have been of exceedingly intemperate and dissolute habits, and to have provoked the disease by their imprudence, exposure, and intoxication."

"The case which terminated in Elliott street was brought on by extreme intemperance and sleeping in wet clothes, in addition to inhaling the foul air of the brig."

Two physicians, Drs. JERVEY and PRITCHARD, were in the meantime sent down to afford the requisite medical attendance upon the sick. These two gentlemen having been worn down by the severity of their labours, were relieved by Dr. HUNT, after the lapse of a week. They, however, remained on the island until the total extinction of the disease, free from all complaint except bodily fatigue.

As neither the brig's crew and passengers, nor the wreckers, an additional number of whom had now gone down by permission of the authorities, were willing to remain on the island under quarantine restrictions, eighteen men were detailed from the city guard, under the command of a lieutenant, to perform the duty of a cordon sanitaire. These men were stationed about one hundred and fifty yards from the sick, but in going to and from the landing, they were forced to pass much nearer one of the buildings used as a hospital; nor was it possible to prevent their communicating with the passengers who were dispersed over the island.

The intendant, in his Proclamation, dated November 9th, says, "a portion of the guard have become so dissatisfied and disaffected, as to have formed a resolution to quit the island." "Notwithstanding

* Intendant's Proclamation to the Citizens.

† Report of Board of Health.

ing the guard were forbidden to leave their posts, they removed to the other end of the island, and left it unprotected." "The anxiety of the crew and passengers to get off was so great, that it was feared that desperate measures would be resorted to."^o

Of four negroes, the *only persons* left on the island by its proprietor, Mr. Milne, three died, one a child and two adults. Of the wreckers *eight* died. Of the guard employed on duty, every man was reported to have been more or less affected with symptoms of cholera, with the exception of the commanding officer; *nine* were reported as seriously attacked, and *one* died. On the 8th of November the wreck was burnt. On the 10th Dr. Hunt's nurse, who, the week previous, had diligently attended on the man who died in Elliott street, died. After the 17th no more cases were reported, the weather about that time becoming remarkably cool. On the 19th the surviving passengers took passage in the Cicero for a southern port. They were *twice* afterwards shipwrecked—once on the Bahamas, and once on Walker's Key, Florida, in neither of which instances did cholera show itself.

The preceding is a brief history of cholera from the time it first appeared on board the *Amelia* at sea, to its total extinction on Folly Island. By some it has been supposed to favour the belief of the contagiousness of that disease. I will now endeavour to show that it does not, and that every portion of it may be explained without the aid of contagion.

That I may not be misunderstood, it is proper that I should explain what I mean by contagion. Whenever, during the continuance of a disease, a deleterious agent is secreted by the patient's body, which, when brought to act on a healthy individual, will produce a disease specifically similar to the one from which it derives its origin; such agent is called contagion, and the disease with which the patient is affected, is termed a contagious disease. Infection, the variety which has been denominated *idio-miasma*, is generated by the decomposition of the natural exhalations and excretions of the human body in a state either of health or of disease. If strict attention be paid to the cleanliness both of persons and of things, and if free ventilation is enjoyed, *idio-miasma* will never exist in any place. It is *always* the result of inattention to cleanliness and ventilation. That cholera has been, and may be produced by infection, I freely admit; that it has ever been produced by contagion, I deny.

The portion of the passengers of the *Amelia*, among whom cholera first appeared, were predisposed to it before they left New York. It is a fact, that previous to, and during the invasion of any place by

* Intendant's Proclamation.

the disease, the inhabitants *generally* are, to a greater or less degree, affected with "cholericine."^{*} In proportion to the severity and obstinacy of the symptoms constituting cholericine, so is the predisposition to cholera greater or less. It is undeniable, that the class† to which the steerage passengers belonged are always *the first* victims of cholera. This need not be wondered at, when their habits and other circumstances are taken into consideration. Some of the passengers had the disease before sailing. If a predisposition was laid in New York, and every thing warrants such a conclusion, it requires no stretch of the imagination to discover why cholera made its appearance on board the brig. From the tempestuousness of the voyage, the passengers were *much* confined below. The voyage was *unusually* long; hence arose the ill-ventilation and filth. To these may be added bad diet.‡ It cannot be doubted, that the most influential of the causes of cholera, mental anxiety, was also present. These acting upon the predisposition, excited it into action, and cholera was produced.

I consider the remaining part of the voyage as a *strong* argument against the existence of contagion. Although every circumstance which was requisite to render contagion active was present, yet only twenty-four died in seven days. Although more than one hundred persons were confined in the hold of the brig surrounded by the diseased, and although no efforts were, or could be made to arrest the progress of the malady, only a comparatively small number died. Was a better opportunity ever afforded for the extension of a contagious disease? I suppose the argument of "insusceptibility" will be offered in explanation. It would be much better to suppose that the disease, true to its character, selected its victims, or that contagion had nothing to do in the matter.

The cause of cholera among the wreckers has already been pointed out. They were "of exceedingly intemperate and dissolute habits, and provoked the disease by their imprudence, exposure, and intoxication." "The case which occurred in Elliott street, was brought

* In this city, during the month of July, 1832, sixty-eight cases of common cholera morbus were reported by less than twenty-eight physicians.—(*Journal Medical Society*.) Affections of the bowels continued to prevail till winter. Persons who previously had been in the habit of eating the most indigestible articles without any bad effects resulting, could no longer do so. Whence arose this state of things? Several cases occurred which very much resembled Asiatic cholera. Was it possible for contagion, which, according to the contagionists, existed in great abundance in New York at the time, to extend its baneful influence across the Atlantic to this city? *Causa latet, vis est notissima.*

† Emigrants. Irishmen who were going to work on the Levee at New Orleans.

on by extreme intemperance, and sleeping in wet clothes, in addition to inhaling the foul air of the brig." By the phrase "foul air," it must not be supposed that a contagious atmosphere, or an atmosphere loaded with contagion, is meant. The air of the brig was rendered "foul" by the number of persons who had been crowded together in her, and by filthiness. The air may have been loaded with idiomiasma, because every thing concurred to produce it, and in this way I account for the almost instantaneous attack of the wreckers after going on board. It may be asked, why was cholera produced, and not any other disease? I answer, because there was a predisposition to that particular form of disease. It cannot be denied, that those whose digestive apparatus is most deranged are most liable to become affected with cholera, and vice versa. Intemperance deranges the organs of digestion to an extreme degree. These in the wreckers being more disposed to disease than any other portion of their bodies, became affected by the causes which were present, and yielded to their influence. In all probability they might have escaped, had they laid aside their evil practices. They continued to be intemperate, and exposed themselves more than they had for some time been accustomed to do. These added to the causes already noticed, called the predisposition into action, and cholera was the result.

It is unnecessary to notice the remaining part of the history in detail. If I have shown that cholera was neither produced nor continued by contagion, so far as I have gone, it is established that it did not afterwards extend itself by that means. A disease which does not extend itself by contagion at one time, when all things are favourable, cannot do so at another time, when things are less favourable.

The remaining cases which occurred, may be divided into two classes. The first class includes all those persons who were attacked after having gone on board the brig. I have already shown that causes sufficient for the production of cholera existed in her. It is necessary to seek out the predisposing causes. A considerable degree of anxiety was manifested by all to leave the island. The guard were so disaffected and dissatisfied, that, contrary to positive orders, they left their post, and went to another part of the island, leaving it unguarded. This was the reason why the intendant called upon the citizens to assist in guarding all points of the city where persons coming from the island might land. This was the reason why the citizens were called upon to be on the alert, and to impale upon their bayonets the monster contagion, if it should attempt an ingress into our city. The intendant feared that desperate measures would be resorted to by the crew and passengers of the *Amelia*, and some others on the island, such was their anxiety to be freed from quarantine. Many were suf-

fering from hope deferred. Many had lost friends and relatives. Disease and death in its most terrible forms, stared all in the face. These were the causes which predisposed, and as soon as exciting causes were applied, disease was manifested.

The second class comprehends all those who were attacked, but who did not visit the brig. The predisposing causes have been already mentioned. I will here state two facts, which could not properly be noticed elsewhere. It was with difficulty that persons could be obtained to bury the dead, and when this last favour was performed, it was done *very slightly*. May not the latter circumstance have had some influence in keeping up the disease? The greater portion of those on the island were lodged in tents. This fact is of some importance, if it be remembered that the sea air is highly injurious during autumn, from its dampness and chilliness.

The predisposing causes being known, it is necessary to look for the exciting. In the present instance, there is but one exciting cause, *idio-miasma*. It may be, that there were others, but they are not known. From the very nature of things, the formation of *idio-miasma* could not be prevented. Nurses were wanting, and cleanliness *could not* be observed. I am borne out in my opinion by the fact, that the disease declined, and ceased altogether, as soon as the weather became cool. The predisposing and the exciting causes being known, there is no difficulty in discovering why persons became affected, although they did not visit the brig, the *fons et origo mali*.

Charleston, May 25th, 1854.

ART. IX. *Remarks on Lithotomy*. By C. R. FINLEY, M. D. Surgeon U. S. Army.

UNTIL the operation of *Lithotripsy* shall have reached that degree of perfection which will cause it entirely to supersede lithotomy, any suggestions which may have a tendency to alleviate the suffering, or diminish the fatality attendant on the last-mentioned operation, are entitled to the attention of the profession. With those objects in view, the following brief remarks on the present mode of preparing a patient for the knife, and the treatment subsequent to the operation, are respectfully submitted.

We are directed, and I believe it is a direction generally, if not universally given in the schools, to compel the patient to retain his urine for several hours previous to the operation, that the bladder may be properly distended; and in order to insure this result, we are told to pass a ligature round the prepuce, and place the patient in