

tion of human life in that vessel, was not, I am satisfied, caused by the scourge which has within the last few years devastated so many countries, but was a disease generated among these unfortunate wretches by their horribly filthy condition, and their total want of attention to their persons. From all that I can learn from the captain and consignees, there did not appear to be any positive symptoms of cholera, except intense *thirst*, and to allay this, they were continually calling for gin. Neither *cramps*, *vomiting*, nor *diarrhœa* attended these cases, nor indeed did there seem, from the accounts of these gentlemen, to be any febrile excitement, but in some cases, the captain states, they would be seen to shake, as with a rigor of intermittent, which would soon pass off, and leave them as before. The disgusting condition in which they kept themselves, swarming with vermin *cap à pie*; lying all day in their births without attempting to go on deck during the whole voyage; three or four huddling themselves together in a place destined to accommodate only one or two; totally inattentive to their own situation, and to the victims who were daily falling around them, whether kindred or not; this condition of things, I say, existed nearly two months prior to their being received on board the vessel. The passengers were from Wirtemberg, and for sixty days had been living in the canal boats which brought them down, not being allowed to leave the canal side, and were consequently obliged to drink the canal water, in which copper-bottomed vessels were floating, which is supposed to have been one powerful cause of the miserable diathesis to which they were reduced.

Considerable mortality had happened among them before embarkation, and the first death on board, occurred the day after their departure from the Helvoetsluys. Their food during the voyage consisted of peas, beans, potatoes and other fresh vegetables, fresh and salt meats, &c. all good and in abundance; they however ate but little, but all their desire was for gin and sugar, in which they would soak their bread, giving it even to their children of two years old. So perfectly listless and inattentive were they to their own situation, and so much a matter of indifference was it to them to be living or dying, that it was found necessary to make it the duty of the crew to go down every morning into the steerage, and after first searching out the corpses, and consigning them to their watery grave, to turn their attention to cleansing the living; to do which they were obliged to lift even the females from their beds of filth, and endeavour to relieve their bodies from some of the dirt with which they were covered, though without the least assistance from the poor wretches themselves. The whole number of them was one hundred and thirty-two, (seventy-four of them children,) of whom ninety-four perished during the voyage.

If there was any disease with which they were affected, and to which a name could be given, typhus would probably be the most appropriate. The officers and crew, who were fortunately not only willing, but indefatigable in their endeavours to keep these people in the best condition possible, spending two or three hours every morning among them, and this too during a protracted and stormy passage of ninety days, were in excellent health during the whole time.

*On the Peruvian Bark as a Counter-agent to the Poisonous Effects of Arsenic.* By ELIAS J. MARSH, M. D. [In a note to the Editor.]—*SIN*, The November No. of your Journal contains a communication from Dr. Perrine, detailing the effects produced on himself by swallowing accidentally a large dose of arsenic.

How far the action of the poison may have been checked by the Peruvian bark, with which it was taken, is worthy of inquiry; and the object of this note is to communicate a statement just recalled to my memory, made several years ago by Professor J. A. Smith, of New York, to his class. Professor S. stated that a medical friend had related to him several cases of poisoning by arsenic, which he had successfully treated by administering large doses of Peruvian bark and milk.

*Paterson, N. J. January, 1832.*