

entitled "Pathology of Fever and Malignant Cholera;" and, what is more, this paper is evidently written with but one object, and that is to prove that "the symptoms of this disease are entirely produced by the influence of the sympathetic nerve," to quote "THE LANCET Record." The author claims for both "fever and cholera" but one source. Fever and cholera are declared to be varieties of one pathological condition; and this, it is affirmed, is located in "the ganglia of the sympathetic." The following passages are to the point, viz. :—

"It would appear, then, that the efficient agents of fever—cholera—act primarily on the organic nervous system, and this is made evident by the parts or organs with which it is connected being those first affected, as shown in the disordered states of the respiration, circulation, digestion, and secretion. .... The cause of death in cholera and in other fatal fevers is owing, first, to the operation of a poison on the ganglionic system of nerves, checking the whole of the vital functions; and, secondly, to the effects of such cause—consisting in the discontinuance of the normal chemical changes in the lungs, thus producing blood which is unfit for the support of life. .... No observer can help noticing the analogy between the deep collapse in cholera and the cold stage of intermittent fevers. In both we have the suspended state of the vital functions, the coldness and lividity of surface, and the anxious and retracted countenance. The reaction in each is of the same character, with occasional congestion of internal viscera."

Again, in vol. xl. of THE LANCET (1842 and '43), pages 121, 123, I see the same views of cholera advocated, but on this occasion in some detail. The writer seeks now to illustrate his position by references to "the effects of a heavy blow on the epigastrium," to the effects of "fear," of "narcotic poisons," of "bites of venomous serpents," and of "tying or dividing the par vagum."

I may add, the first paper quoted omits all reference to treatment, but the second, written nearly a quarter of a century ago (see vol. xl. of THE LANCET), advises, among other things, the steady and persistent use of purgative medicines, "to restore the suspended functions of all the abdominal organs." Furthermore, "the pathology and treatment of cholera" is the subject of an article in vol. i. of THE LANCET (N. S.), 1854, nearly twelve years since, in which the foregoing opinions are again urged on the attention of your readers. In this, the third paper on the subject, a deep stress is laid on the use of "purgatives" in cholera. These, it is declared, do not act as such, but they, nevertheless, "restrain the diarrhoea and effectually check the intestinal discharges. They act as restoratives of the normal character of the secretions common to the primæ viæ, and so establish a healthy fecal discharge." Pills of calomel and compound extract of colocynth, with an essential oil, are recommended to be taken frequently, and alternately with portions of a mixture composed of castor oil and spirits of turpentine; such means, it is declared, have proved eminently successful.

To those engaged on inquiries into the pathology of cholera so-called, but desirous of balancing the many conflicting testimonies in regard to the best treatment of this fearful malady, the foregoing remarks may not prove unacceptable. Moreover, these may be said to confirm the views of M. Marey and Dr. Chapman, as given in "THE LANCET Record of the Progress of Medicine."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JAMES GEORGE DAVEY, M.D. St. And.,  
Member of Roy. Coll. of Phys. of Lond., &c.

Northwoods, near Bristol, Jan. 1866.

P.S.—I would ask those favourable to the exclusively contagious nature of cholera, in what way they would explain its outbreak among a ship's crew for weeks at sea, and some hundreds of miles from land? Does it not occur to you, Mr. Editor, that the theory of spontaneous development derives confirmation from the fact of a single case of cholera occurring in a country district in Gloucestershire at a time when the disease is not known in the same or in a contiguous county?—J. G. D.

## PUERILE RESPIRATION IN PNEUMONIA.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—At a late meeting of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of London, Dr. Waters of Liverpool brought under notice two cases of pneumonia, in which a puerile respiration in the affected part preceded the more ordinary symptoms of the disease. On this point I beg to state that it has been long

known in Dublin as occasionally occurring, and will be found specially noticed in the able work of Dr. Stokes, published some twenty-five years ago.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

Dublin, Jan. 1866.

HENRY KENNEDY, M.D.

## VACCINATION AND THE RINDERPEST.

PROFESSOR M'CALL of Glasgow has communicated to us the fact that he has vaccinated successfully an animal which had passed through an attack of the rinderpest. This is an additional fact, indicating the absence either of identity or antagonism between cow-pox and rinderpest. We early suggested this experiment: it is the first instance, so far as we know, in which it has been performed. Professor M'Call states that he has been unable to discover anything like an exanthematous eruption in any of the animals dying with rinderpest in Glasgow or its vicinity, and that his assistants and friends who have seen the animals with him are equally unable to discern any eruption. In London, Cheshire, and Norfolk, all observers are agreed as to the presence of the eruption, although doubtful as to its truly vesicular character.

## EPSOM COLLEGE.

SIR WM. FERGUSSON has consented to preside at the annual festival of the Royal Medical College, to be held at Willis's Rooms, on the 26th of April next. That he will be warmly supported by his professional brethren we are confident.

The list of stewards is about to be published, and we urge upon all who have the interest of this valuable institution at heart, to at once forward their names to Mr. Propert, to be enrolled in the list.

## Medical News.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—The following gentlemen having undergone the necessary examinations for the diploma, were admitted members of the College at a meeting of the Court of Examiners on the 25th ult. :—

Budd, Herbert Goldingham, Worcester.  
Buhôt, William Hill, M.D., Tobago, West Indies.  
Bushell, Stephen Wootton, Brixton.  
Diver, Thomas, M.D., London.  
Gordon, Henry Pelham, Queensland.  
Hussey, John Fraser, Salisbury.  
La Mert, Israel John, Albemarle-street.

It is stated that of the fifty-six candidates who presented themselves for examination on the 23rd, 24th, and 25th ult., only eight were referred back to their studies for six months.

[Erratum.—In the list of members admitted Jan. 24th, published last week, for "Thomas Henry Simpson, Fore-street," read "John Henry Simpson, Fore-street."]

NAVAL SURGEONS.—At a meeting of the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons of England on the 25th ult. the following Assistant-Surgeons in the Royal Navy passed their examinations for full Surgeons in that department of the public service :—

Colquhoun, Archibald Grant, of the Royal Marine Infirmary, Woolwich; diploma of membership of the College dated July 30, 1861.  
McMorris, Robert James (half pay); member May 16, 1859.  
Yarde, William, M.D., of H.M.S. Industry, Woolwich Dockyard; member July 3, 1857.  
Curtis, George, of Haslar Hospital; Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, May 20, 1861.

APOTHECARIES' HALL.—The following gentleman passed his examination in the Science and Practice of Medicine, and received a certificate to practise, on the 25th ult. :—

Pearson, Henry, Plymouth-grove, Manchester.

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

Hall, Richard Strange, Manchester Hospital.  
Thurston, William French, Guy's Hospital.

Of the thirty-two candidates who presented themselves for the Preliminary Examination in Arts on the 26th and 27th