

and thus assuming a different form, acts as a foreign substance, irritates the stomach and bowels, and is thrown off by them, subsequent to which is the stage of collapse. Hence also the cause of the venous congestion which commences in the *venæ hepaticæ* and *vena cava*, which no doubt occasions the oppression and sensation of weight in the region of the diaphragm, and with which the patient has been troubled just previous to the stage of collapse in every case I have seen. That this is the true history of the case, and not theory, what is the very first favourable symptom when the patient recovers from the stage of collapse? Evacuations from the stomach mixed with *green bile*, and a quantity of black and green feculent matter from the rectum, and the patient goes into a milder or severer form of true bilious fever, according to the peculiarity of his constitution. I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your humble servant,

J. H. TAYLOR.

7, Devonshire Street, Portland Place,  
Sept. 26, 1832.

## SULPHATE OF COPPER

IN

## MALIGNANT CHOLERA.\*

SIR,—My object in addressing this to you is to draw your attention to the superior efficacy of the sulphate of copper above all the most lauded remedies hitherto resorted to. Salt, tartar emetic, acetate of lead, oxymuriate of mercury, cold water, &c., &c., all of these must be given in large and repeated doses, gallons of water and pounds of salt!! the objects of all the prescribers being nearly the same,—brisk vomiting, acting on the exhalants and biliary ducts. All these objects can be more certainly obtained, and valuable time saved, by a full dose of sulphate of copper. I need not say that there is no article of *materia medica* more manageable. As an emetic it is perhaps the most certain and speedy in its effects; as an astringent it cannot be surpassed.

In the four cases in which it was given in my practice it was not necessary to repeat the dose; but I doubt not cases may occur in which a repetition of the medicine may be found necessary. Every judicious practitioner, when he has witnessed the power of the remedy over the disease, will soon find out how to use it.

With respect to the exhibition of hydro-

cyanic acid at the same time, as is the practice at the Mount-street Infirmary, whatever may be their success, I am decidedly of opinion that the use of such a medicine is contra-indicated in cholera.

Dr. Shute in his last letter in *THE LANCET* of the 22d says, "If purging continue to an immoderate extent, the administration of one grain of the *argentum nitratum* has proved highly beneficial." This medicine, in its astringent quality, comes nearer to the sulphate of copper than any other, but there are objections to its use which do not apply to the sulphate of copper.

JAMES MORRAH.

Sloane-street, Chelsea,  
Sept. 26th.

## TREATMENT OF

## MALIGNANT CHOLERA

AT

DOUGLAS, ISLE OF MAN.\*

IN compliance with the Central Board's inquiry No. 2, we beg leave to submit the following as the most effectual, consistent with our practice:—

1st. When in the form of bilious diarrhœa; small and frequent doses of calomel, opium, and ipecacuan, in combination with chalk mixture, &c. &c., which seem in general to have arrested the progress of the disease.

2nd. In that of rice-water evacuations; bloodletting, pediluvia, and the frequent administration of calomel, antimony, and opium. We have also tried the use of croton oil with apparent advantage, which seems to produce its effect by causing a transfer of action, and consequently changing the state of the serous evacuations.

3rd. In the state of collapse: when this stage of the disease has occurred, we have in general had recourse to the chloride of potass in combination with soda and compound tincture of camphor, accompanied with stimulants of different kinds. Latterly we have tried cold water, according to Dr. Shute's system, and although a few recoveries have taken place under this treatment, yet we have reason to believe that when persevered in too far, it induces very high consecutive fever, and consequent congestion of the brain.

GARRETT and HARRISON,  
Surgeons.

Douglas, Isle of Man,  
Sept. 19, 1832.

\* Communicated by the Central Board of Health.  
Abridged.

\* Communicated by the Central Board of Health.