

## **Cholera and its treatment.**

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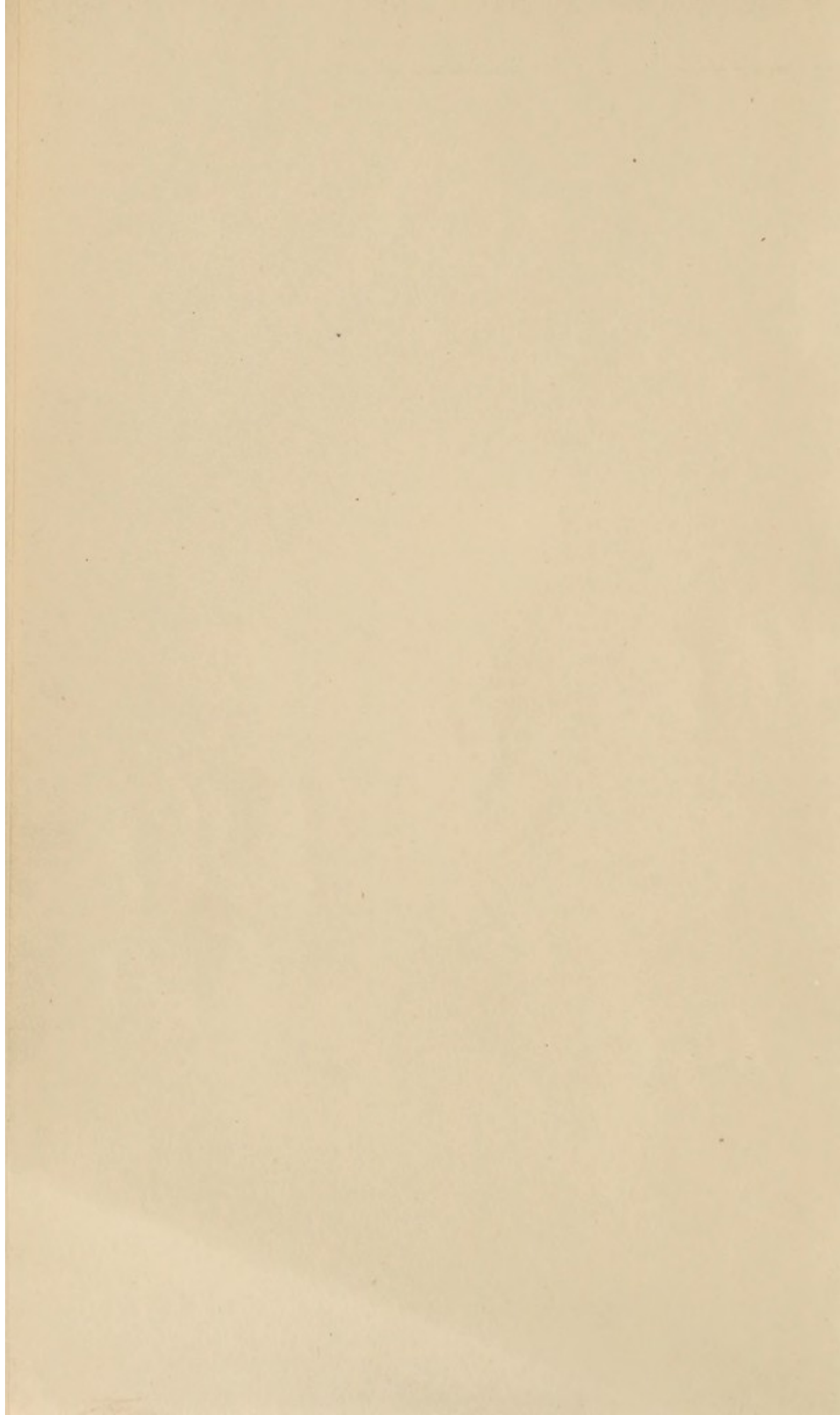
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THE expectation of the speedy approach of the Asiatic Cholera to this country, induces the Committee of the BRITISH HOMŒOPATHIC ASSOCIATION to address the accompanying circular to the Members of the Association, not only with a hope that it may contribute to their personal safety, but that with a view to the preservation of others, they will disseminate as widely as possible a knowledge of the facts which it contains.

## CHOLERA AND ITS TREATMENT.

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IN a speech made in the House of Commons on the 8th August, Lord Morpeth mentioned the following facts regarding the present devastations of the Cholera in Europe, and in the north-eastern part of Africa. It is pursuing the same direction as in 1832, and has been preceded by the signs which were then observable, viz., severe influenza, followed a few months afterwards by a great increase of a diarrhœa frequently fatal, such as is now prevalent. Communications from British Ministers and Consuls show that the disease is not approaching in a more mild form than it assumed during our former experience. At St. Petersburg, up to July 24th, the official returns were—cases 17,742, deaths 10,138, cures 4,618, remaining sick 1,986. Proportions per cent., deaths 57, cures 26, remaining 17. At Moscow, the cases were 9,754, deaths 4,309. At Odessa, from the 19th May to the 28th June, the cases were 824, deaths 332, recoveries 235, remaining 257. It was also reported to be very severe in Nicolayaff and Cherson, and in parts of Bessarabia. At Tchekerghi, near Broussa, and at Ancona, the mortality was not so severe; but at Balgat, a village in the neighbourhood of the latter city, nearly the whole population have perished. At Jassy, in Moldavia, 10,000 persons are said to have died, and the government have not judged it advisable to issue any bulletins. At Cairo it broke out on the 15th July. Between that date and the 18th, seventy-two cases occurred; and although the sufferers received instant and persevering medical aid, not one of them recovered. Every single patient died in the course of a few hours. At the small town of Graditza, on the Danube, it assumed a dreadful form; no recovery at the date of the last advices had been reported, and most of the cases terminated fatally within twelve hours.

From this it would seem that the ordinary method of treatment, or rather the system of general experiment which was pursued during the visit of the Cholera in 1831, has not met with any better success on the present occasion, than was then arrived at; and that the statement of the *Medical Gazette*, in October last, that the

profession are "entirely at a loss for any certain principle of treatment," has, as far as relates to the majority of practitioners, been fully confirmed.

The gloomy conclusion, however, to which we should thus be led is denied by those who recognize the Homœopathic system, and who are conversant with the comparative results between that and the ordinary method. These results, which were obtained from 1831 to 1834, in various parts of Europe, are as follows:—

**TREATED AT THEIR OWN HOUSES.**

<i>Results of Allopathic or ordinary treatment of Cholera.</i>		<i>Results of Homœopathic treatment of Cholera.</i>	
	Cases. Deaths.		Cases. Deaths.
At Tischnowitz, in Moravia.....	331 .. 102	By Dr. Baer, at Prague.....	80 .. 0
„ Wishney Wototschok, in Russia.....	199 .. 139	„ Dr. Bakody, at Raab in Hungary	154 .. 6
„ Merseburg.....	164 .. 101	„ Dr. Duplat, at Marseilles.....	60 .. 12
„ Raab, in Hungary.....	1217 .. 578	„ Dr. Gerstel, at Tischnowitz, in Moravia.....	327 .. 32
In various Cavalry Regiments in Great Britain.....	171 .. 54	„ Dr. Hanusch, at Tischnowitz..	84 .. 6
„ the Troops at Gibraltar.....	459 .. 131	„ Dr. Kleiner, at Saratof, in Russia	183 .. 27
„ the Troops at Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.....	210 .. 59	„ Dr. Jal, at Marseilles.....	19 .. 4
„ the Troops in Canada.....	356 .. 127	„ Dr. Lederer, at Vienna.....	80 .. 2
		„ Dr. Lens, at Pesth.....	40 .. 8
		„ Dr. Lichtenfels, at Vienna.....	44 .. 3
		„ Dr. Lövy, at Prague.....	80 .. 8
		„ Dr. Marenzeller, at Vienna.....	30 .. 3
		„ Dr. Mayer, at Pesth.....	65 .. 0
		„ Dr. Quin, at Tischnowitz & Paris	48 .. 3
		„ Dr. Rummel, at Merseburg....	46 .. 16
		„ Dr. Schaller, at Prague.....	113 .. 0
		„ Dr. Schreter, at Lemberg.....	27 .. 1
		„ Dr. Schultz, at Vienna.....	17 .. 0
		„ Dr. Scider, at Wishney, Wototschok, in Russia.....	109 .. 23
		„ Dr. Vrecka, at Vienna & Scowitz	144 .. 12
		„ Dr. Veith, at Vienna.....	125 .. 3
	<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
	3107 .. 1231		1876 .. 169

About one death in every 2½ cases, or more than 39 per Cent.

About one death out of 11 cases, or little more than 9 per Cent.

[It is proper to mention, that these results must not be received without caution, on account of the variations in the intensity of the disorder at different places and periods. In a considerable degree, however, the Homœopathic statements are supported by testimonials and acknowledgments from local authorities.]

**TREATED IN HOSPITAL.**

	Cases. Deaths.		Cases. Deaths.
In the Drummond Street Cholera Hospital, Edinburgh.....	461 .. 291	By Dr. Fleischmann, at Vienna....	732 .. 244
„ the Cholera Hospital, Berlin, under Dr. Böhr.....	97 .. 64	„ Drs. Haynel and Stüler, at Berlin.....	32 .. 6
„ Krunkenburgs wards, at Halle. 104 .. 53		„ Dr. Mabit, at Bordeaux.....	31 .. 6
„ Hamburg Hospitals, Oct. and Nov. 1831.....	283 .. 178		
„ In the Cholera Hospital, St. Petersburg, by Dr. Lichtenstadt.....	636 .. 317		
„ the Hospital, Raab.....	284 .. 122		
„ the Hospital, Bordeaux.....	104 .. 72		
	<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
	1969 .. 1097		795 .. 256

About one death in 1 4-5th cases, or about 56 per Cent.

About one death in 3 1-10th cases, or between 32 and 33 per Cent.

From the above it will be seen that in private treatment the deaths under the Allopathic or ordinary method, were 39 per cent., and under the Homœopathic, little more than 9 per cent.; and that in hospitals it was 56 per cent. under Allopathy, against 32 or 33 per cent. under Homœopathy, an astounding difference in the first description of cases, and a very remarkable difference also in the latter, although it is to be borne in mind that patients are only brought to a hospital when they show undoubted evidence of the fully developed disease, many after having been subjected to very violent treatment, and having been dosed with Allopathic medicines, and many, of course, are brought in a dying state.

In Wilde's *Anstria, its Literary, Scientific, and Medical Institutions*,\* it is remarked—"Upon comparing the report made of the treatment of Cholera in the Homœopathic Hospital at Vienna, with that of the same epidemic in the other hospitals of Vienna at a similar time, it appeared that while two-thirds of those treated by Dr. Fleischmann recovered, two-thirds of those treated by the ordinary methods in the other hospitals died. This very extraordinary result led Count Kolowrat (Minister of the Interior,) to repeal the law relative to the practice of Homœopathy." The hospital in question, it should be added, was daily visited by two Allopathic inspecting physicians, appointed by the government. Dr. Roth, of Munich, also, who was sent by the Bavarian government to observe the Cholera in different localities, and report on the effects of its Homœopathic treatment, published in 1833 an interesting pamphlet, which has furnished a considerable portion of the statistics above detailed. The statistics from Tischnowitz, in Moravia, were furnished by the authorities of that place, accompanied by a letter of the most grateful acknowledgment. Dr. Veith, one of the practitioners whose results are quoted in the above list, had formerly been a medical practitioner of the Allopathic school, but was at the time when the Cholera raged at Vienna, Chaplain to the Court, and to St. Stephen's Cathedral, and whilst administering the consolations of religion to those infected with Cholera, he was shocked at the

\* This is the work of an Allopathic Surgeon, the talented Editor of the *Dublin Quarterly Journal of Medicine*.

awful mortality that prevailed; and the idea of treating them according to the Homœopathic system with which he was already familiar, occurred to him. His success was so great, that of 125 patients he lost but 3.

With regard to a peculiar modification of atmospheric Cholera observed in China, by an eminent Allopathist, Dr. Wilson, Inspector of Naval Hospitals and Fleets, it is stated by that gentleman in his *Medical Notes*, published in 1846 —“In the Cholera cases the doctrine of the Homœopaths, *similia similibus curantur*, is partly admitted. Whatever may be thought of the theory on which the practice is founded there is no doubt the practice is often highly beneficial.” He also adds—“at the invasion of many febrile affections involving important organs, and leading, if not speedily arrested, to dangerous, perhaps destructive lesions of those organs, it often acts with an absolutely curative effect.”

In connexion with the results above given, of the Homœopathic treatment in Asiatic Cholera, it is necessary to remark, that the following observation has been made by the *Medical Gazette* concerning them:—“The Homœopaths have boasted of their success in treating Cholera; the secret of this is, that they did not interfere so much as the regular practitioners with the *vis medicatrix nature*!” As the editor, however, will be found to have asserted in his previous page, that where the disease had been suffered to run its course unchecked, there the mortality had been greater than even under the regular practitioners, it will not be difficult to estimate the degree of value to be attached to this attempt to explain away the success of Homœopathy.

To these remarks it may be desirable to add for popular instruction, the following rules which have been given for prevention, and also for treatment pending the arrival of a physician.

“In giving directions as to the necessary precautions to be taken in case of the invasion of Cholera, the nature of the disease must be borne in mind, viz:—that it has many of the properties of an infectious disease, but that an actual existence of a predisposing cause is necessary for its development; it therefore behoves every one to keep themselves as much as possible free from any of these.

“The house should be well aired; all noxious effluvia arising from decaying animal or vegetable substances got rid of.

“ Cesspools and dust holes cleaned out.

“ Sleeping apartments well ventilated, kept clean and dry.

“ All exposure to cold and wet avoided; on no account to sit in damp clothes, particularly damp shoes or stockings.

“ *Care should be taken to avoid chills, or to check the perspiration.*

“ The clothing must be sufficient to preserve the body at an equable temperature.

“ Regular exercise in the open air. *All anxiety of mind* and other predisposing causes, to be avoided as much as possible.

“ The diet should be wholesome and regular, and every one should be more than ordinarily careful not to eat those articles of food which experience may have taught them produce derangement of the digestive functions, such as *veal, pork, &c.*

“ No raw vegetables should be taken, or cold fruit, such as celery, salads, cucumbers, pickles, melons, oranges, apples, &c.; the more wholesome varieties of fruits and cooked vegetables should be used in moderation, non-acid wines and beer may also be taken in moderation by those accustomed to them.

“ As regards the prophylactic (preventive) treatment. That this was of some avail in the last invasion of the Cholera, may be adduced by the following facts. Dr. Marenzeller gave prophylactic medicines to 150,000 persons in Vienna, and none of them fell victims to the Cholera.

“ The same results were gained among 80,000 people in Hungary and Poland. It is the general experience of Homœopathists, that among those who took these medicines, and were attacked by Cholera, the disease showed itself in its mildest form; whereas, at the same time, it attacked with great virulence those who had not undergone the prophylactic treatment.

“ The medicines given as prophylactics were, Cuprum and Veratrum, six globules to be taken, (of the fifth dilution of the former and the third of the latter) of one of these medicines every third morning, dissolved in a teaspoonful of water. The medicines to be alternated.\*

“ Should the first symptoms actually appear, and it must be borne

\* No coffee, acids, spices, or aromatics of any kind should be taken whilst under the action of these remedies.

in mind that, when the Cholera is prevailing, no one of the premonitory symptoms should on any account be neglected, viz:—feeling of general uneasiness, headache, giddiness, pain in the abdomen, oppression at the chest, diarrhœa, whitish evacuations, rumblings, two drops of spirit of camphor, prepared according to the proportions recommended by the experience of Homœopaths, *i. e.* one drachm of camphor, dissolved in six drachms of spirits of wine (this may be procured at the Homœopathic Chemists,) should be given every five or ten minutes, in a little iced or cold water, and no time lost in obtaining medical aid. The patient should also be kept warm in bed. By at once attending to these instructions, the disease may often be arrested in its first stage.

“Under whatever form the Cholera presents itself, this medicine (camphor,) may be given during the first hour, with every probability of success. It is chiefly used when there is stiffness of the muscles. For a more detailed account of the treatment of Cholera, and also for the authorities quoted in this circular, the various medical pamphlets published on the subject, together with articles which have appeared from time to time in Homœopathic journals, may be consulted. These few pages have been merely written for the purpose of giving non-professional persons a few instructions awaiting the arrival of the Physician; it will suffice, therefore, to add the following summary:—

The medicines given generally in ordinary cases of Cholera, are—

1. During the period of invasion—CAMPHOR.
2. When there is vomiting and watery evacuations, with slight cramps—**IPECACUANHA.**
3. If to these symptoms are added permanent cramps, great thirst, and excessive coldness—**VERATRUM.**
4. In case of convulsions, bloody stools, or watery diarrhœa, and vomiting—**CUPRUM.**

**IPECACUANHA** is only useful in slight attacks. It is indicated when vomiting is the predominating symptom, and comes on alternately with yellowish diarrhœa, accompanied by colic. It is never suitable when the disease is at its height, and if improvement does not soon follow its administration, recourse must be had to **Veratrum**. The dose is a few globules of the first dilution, repeated in about ten minutes to two hours, according to the urgency of the case.

**VERATRUM**—is the principal remedy in almost all cases of Cholera, with sudden and frequent evacuations upwards and downwards, coldness of the body, great weakness, cramps in the calves of the legs, &c. The dose is a few globules

of the third or sixth dilution, to be given in a spoonful of iced water, and if after ten minutes or half an hour there is no change for the better, the dose to be repeated. If the symptoms increase after several doses, and the cramps change to spasms and convulsions, recourse must be had to CUPRUM, and in many cases this latter remedy is beneficially alternated with VERATRUM.

ARSENICUM may likewise be alternated with VERATRUM, when the disease is attended with a sensation as of burning coals in the stomach and bowels, occasional scalding evacuations, accompanied by violent colic and extraordinary prostration of strength, coldness of the skin, clammy perspirations and insupportable fear of death.

CHAMOMILLA is useful in Choleric Diarrhœa when it is attributed to great dread of being attacked with Cholera, and when the evacuations are bilious.

The patient ought to be kept warm, and if necessary, bottles of hot water applied to the feet; a little cold water is to be given from time to time, to allay the thirst, and if possible, occasionally, small pieces of ice. Lavements of iced water are often beneficial in cases of colic and cramps of the intestines.

“During convalescence, care should be taken to prevent relapses; and it is frequently observed that at the commencement of convalescence, the patient is tormented with a great craving for food, this should be restrained, and but little food, and that of a light digestible kind only, allowed to be taken.

“Care should also be taken to protect the surface of the body, and particularly the extremities, from cold.”

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