

Letter from Sir William N. Gull to Sir Joseph Fayrer re the causes of cholera

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74, Brook Street,
Grosvenor Square,
W.

Dear Fyver

I have read over
the papers you were
so good as to send me
on Saturday - I
agree with the con-
clusions you have
arrived at

- (1) Cholera is not a
contagious disease
- (2) The material cause
which produces it is
not yet known

(3) It is a malady
due to causes in
soil and locality

(4) It cannot be
arrested in its spread
by quarantine

(5) Its origin & spread
are best combated by
ordinary sanitary
arrangements whether
in ships, bodies of men
troops cities &c

(6) Deltas it affects
more than higher
ground

(7) There has been much
evidence(?) brought to
proof(?) that the excremen-
tation of cholera produces
the disease but such evi-
dence would seem to be
fallacious

- For prevention Clean
linen is all.

I was I fancy many in-
quiring you on Saturday
to call your Committee to-
gether without delay as
last week the Executive
Committee for Advance-
ment of Medicine by Research
(you are a member) dispatched
Dr Roy to Spain to enquire
into the 'Microbi' facts
as between Koch & Klein

The Roy Socy made a grant of
150 £ for this object. It is
strictly limited & has nothing to do
with the inoculation question.
Should you not wait for
Roy's report?

Yours very truly
William H. Gull

July 6 1885

I will send the
papers back to-day

W H G

125
74 Brook St.
Grosvenor Road.
W.

Dear Fayrer.

I have read the papers you were so good as to send me on Saturday & I agree with the conclusions you have arrived at.

- (1). Cholera is not a contagious disease.
- (2). The Material cause which produces it is not yet known.
- (3). It is a malady due to causes in soil & locality.
- (4). It cannot be arrested in its spread by quarantine.
- (5). Its origin to spread are best combated by ordinary Sanitary Arrangements whether in ships, bodies of men, towns & cities, &c.
- (6). Deltas it effects more than higher ground.
- (7). There has been much evidence(?) brought to prove that the evacuations of Cholera produce the disease but such evidence since would seem to be felicitous for - for prevention cleanliness is all.

I was I fancy wrong in urging you on Saturday to call your committee together without delay as last week the Executive Committee for Advancement of Medicine by Research. (you are a Member), Despatched Dr Roy to Spain to enquire into the "Microbe" facts as between Koch & Klein.

The Royal Society made a grant of £150 for this subject, it is strictly limited & has nothing to do with the inoculation question.

Should you not wait for Roy's report.

Yours Very Truly.

William.N.Gull.

P.S. I will send the papers back to day.

W.N.G.

Note: Sir.William.Gull.(1816-1890.) was the first to note the posterior spinal lesions in locomotor ataxia in 1856, and to differentiate typhoid fever. He described intermittent haemoglobinuria (1866), and was a pioneer in the use of static electricity in the treatment of nervous diseases.

Sir.Joseph.Fayrer.(1824-1907) was one of the Anglo-Indian surgeons famous for his work on Indian snakes, (Thanatophidia of India, 1872) a copy of this original work is in the Library, the drawings were executed by Hindu pupils in the Government School of Art in Calcutta, the work itself is a classic in Zoology,