

A treatise on Asiatic cholera / by Dr. Wheeler.

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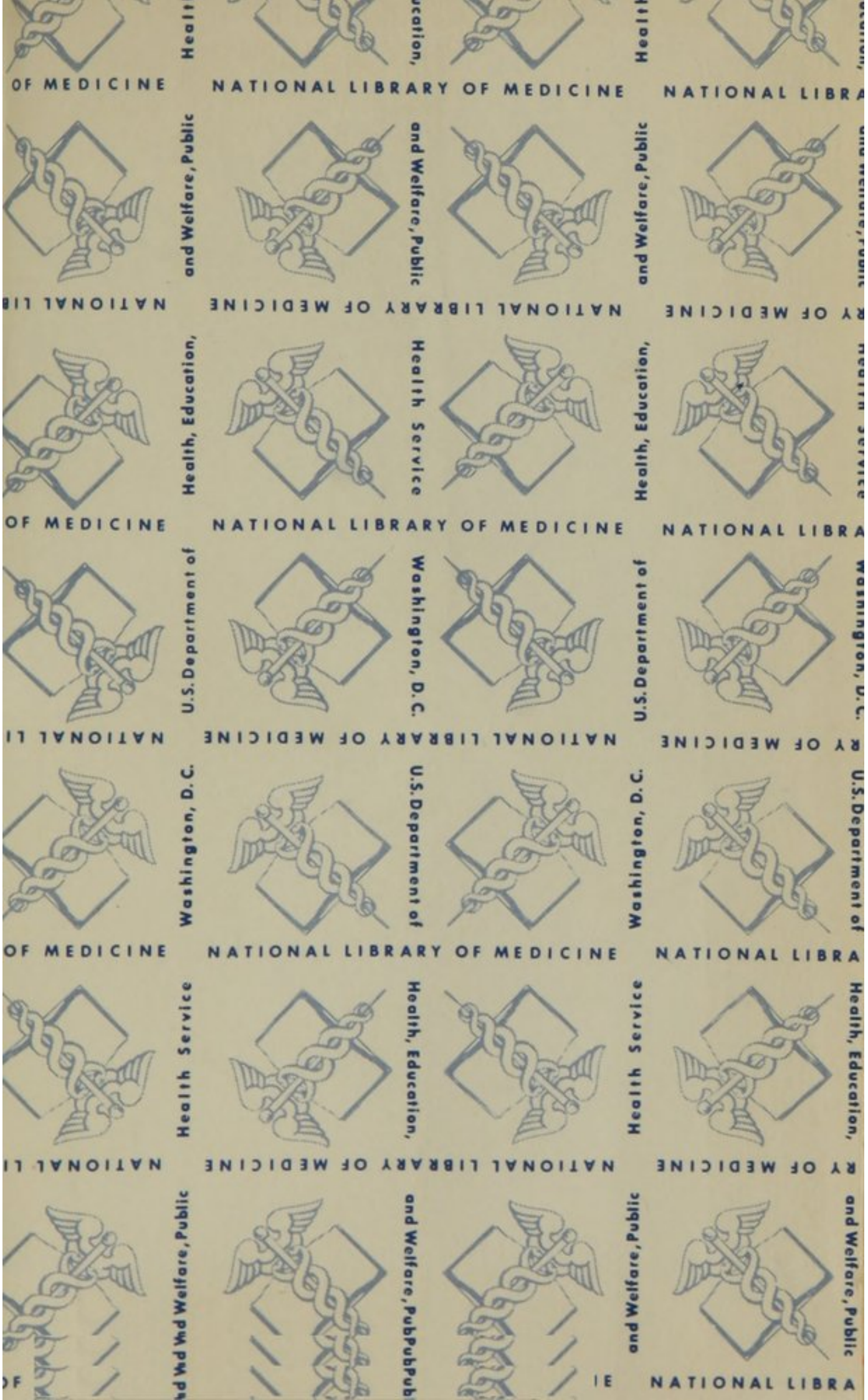
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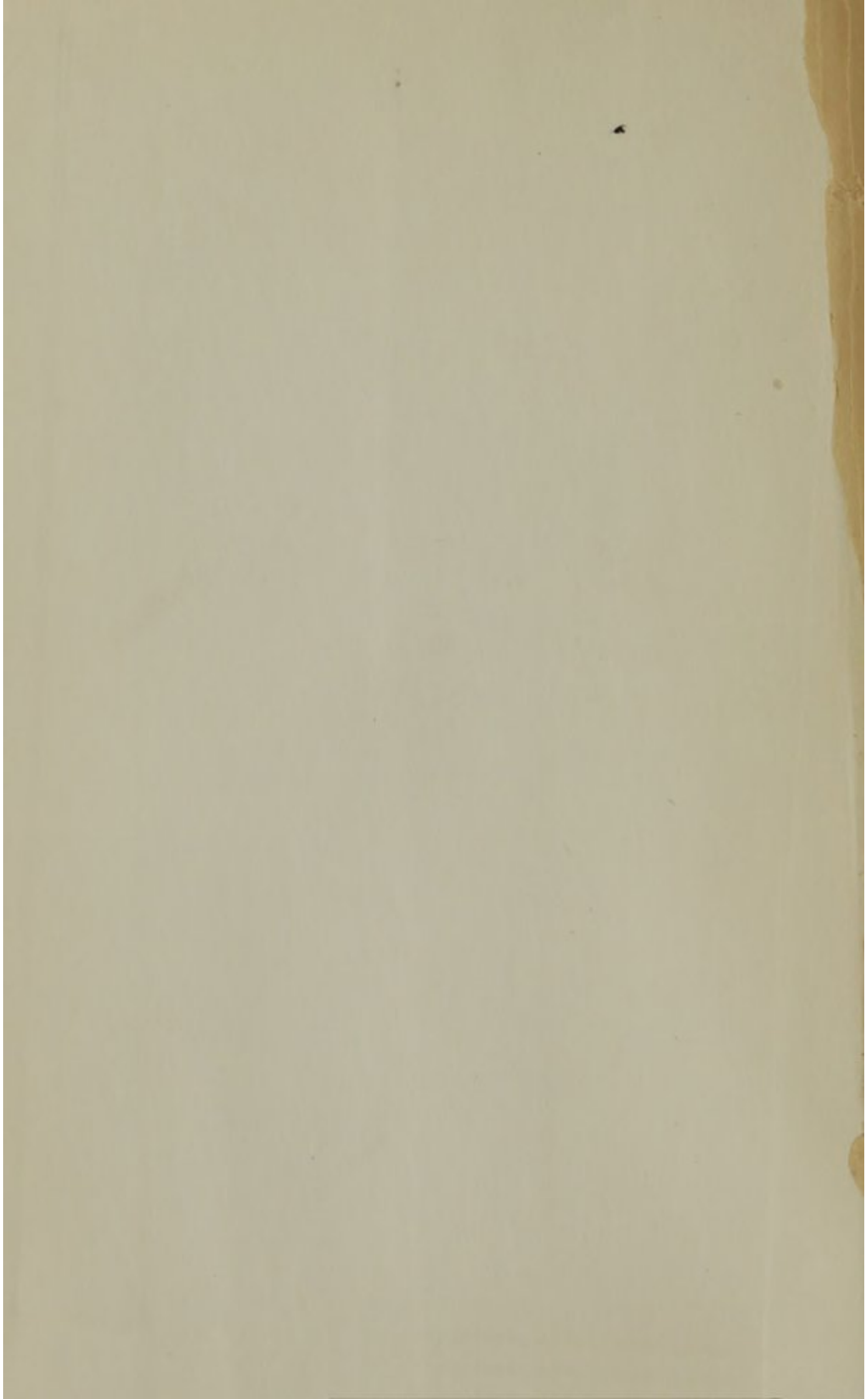
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TREATISE

ON

ASIATIC CHOLERA.

BY DR. WHEELER.

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ANNEX
Cholera

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PREFACE.

HAVING been engaged during my residence in this city—a period of nearly a quarter of a century—in the successful treatment of diseases of the eyes, in the practise of my legitimate vocation of surgeon-oculist, it may seem strange to many that I should now occupy myself with a subject so remote from the “beaten track,” in which I have been so long exclusively engaged. The explanation is easy, and will be, I hope, satisfactory. When a disease so terrible as the Asiatic Cholera, hangs over our heads, suspended, as it were, like the sword of Damocles by a single hair, it surely behoves every man—I will not say every philanthropist—to communicate, as fully and as clearly as may be in his power, the results of his experience and reflection on so important a subject. This duty becomes still more imperative in the

case of him who possesses a remedial and curative agent, whose value and efficiency have been demonstrated by actual and repeated trials.

To those who are unacquainted with the services rendered by the author of this publication, to hundreds of severely afflicted individuals, during the fearful and fatal prevalence of the Asiatic Cholera, or Cholera Asphyxia, in the years 1832-4, it may appear surprising that he should, in the ensuing pages, so strongly and urgently recommend, as an absolutely certain remedy, as well as preventive, for that horrible disease, a preparation now almost universally known as the Balsam of Moscatello. It is not from the mere circumstance of his being the discoverer and sole proprietor of that extraordinarily successful invention—nor from any considerations of a selfish or pecuniary nature—that he now, at a period of apprehended public calamity, solicits the attention of the community to the great advantages to be derived from the use of a *specific* which has saved thousands from the attacks of a dangerous pestilence, and averted death in many instances where the dread scourge was

supposed to have made certain of its prey. He feels that his professional reputation, as well as his personal integrity, would be at stake were he to descend to any empirical course to subserve a private purpose in such a crisis; and he solemnly protests to all who may peruse the few pages which he has thought proper now to issue, that he has no other object or design in view than to contribute, as much as may be in his power, towards the relief of his suffering and afflicted fellow-creatures, in a time of appalling danger.

Although the author has, from the results of his experience—in connection with that of many learned and scientific medical men who have used his preparations in their practice,—the most unlimited and entire confidence in his peculiar method of treating Cholera, (both in its incipient and advanced stages) it will be seen that he has not hesitated to give the observations of others, who pursue a different system from that by which he has been enabled to rescue so many from impending dissolution during the ravages of the Cholera, when it last made its appearance in the United States.

Conscious that in offering the suggestions

herein contained, he performs but a duty which he owes to common humanity—and with the hope that his brief remarks may be beneficial to all who may have occasion to consult them, he commits them respectfully to the public.

Desirous of placing before the public all the information we have in relation to the dread and fatal disease, which the author of this treatise is so desirous to avert, he has with minute care, searched through the most elaborate works of distinguished medical men of all countries (ancient and modern), to ascertain the primary exciting cause of Cholera, and the means best calculated both to meet and destroy the enemy. In pursuance of his investigations, the following remarks of Bontius, a celebrated Dutch physician, whose fame was in the ascendant in the year 1629, are not without their uses and applications at this eventful period:—

In the cholera, hot, bilious matter, irritating the stomach and intestines, is incessantly and copiously discharged by the mouth and anus. It is a disorder of the most acute kind, and therefore requires immediate application. The principal cause of it, next to a

hot and moist disposition of the air, is an intemperate indulgence of eating fruits, which, as they are generally green, and obnoxious to putrefaction, irritate and oppress the stomach by their superfluous humidity, and produce an æruginous bile. The cholera might, with some degree of reason, be reckoned a salutary exertion; since such humors are discharged in it, as if retained, would prove prejudicial. However, as by such successive purgation, the animal spirits are exhausted, and the heart, the fountain of heat and life, is overwhelmed with putrid effluvia, those who are seized with this disorder generally die, and that so quickly, as in the space of four and twenty hours, at most.

Such, among others, was the fate of Cornelius Van Royen, steward of the hospital of the sick, who, being in perfect health at six in the evening, was suddenly seized with the cholera, and expired in terrible agony and *convulsions* before twelve o'clock at night; the violence and rapidity of the disorder surmounting the force of every remedy. But if the patient should survive the period above-mentioned, there is great hope of performing a cure.

This disease is attended with a weak pulse, difficult respiration, and coldness of the extreme parts; to which are joined, great internal heat, insatiable thirst, perpetual

watching, and restless and incessant tossing of the body. If, together with these symptoms, a cold and fœtid sweat should break forth, it is certain that death is at hand."

Dr. Huxham, Dr. Brady, and other writers, notice its prevalence in London, in 1669-76, and in 1741. It is said to have prevailed in several parts of Europe, from 1600 to 1780. At Paris extensively in the summers of 1730, 1750, and again in 1780, and in Switzerland in 1696.

Anterior to the present age, the epidemic or pestilential form of cholera, had, however, rarely appeared in Europe. It had occurred more frequently in India, and its ravages there had been greater.

Lebegue de Presle says it prevailed in Upper Hindostan in 1762, where it destroyed thirty thousand blacks, and eight hundred Europeans.

Dr. Paisley, in a letter dated at Madras, 12th of February, 1774, says that the cholera is often epidemic there.

The late illustrious Dr. Shannon observes that, "this affection arises from some occult cause affecting the atmosphere, whereby the blood is rendered inimical to its proper functions, and that the man who will be enabled either by science or chance, to discover a specific for this disease, will secure to himself a fame more glorious than all the achievements of the most renowned heroes."

M. Sonnerat, in his *Travels in India*, from 1774 to 1781, says that cholera prevailed epidemically on the Coromandel coast, and at one period assumed a very malignant character, destroying above sixty thousand people, from Cherigam to Poudicherry.

The epidemic cholera morbus prevailed at the island of Mauritius in 1819 and 1820; and from inquiries then made by a Committee of British Medical Officers, it was ascertained that a similar disease prevailed there in 1775, and which continued about two months, causing great mortality, particularly among the blacks.

In 1781, a division of British troops, consisting of about five thousand men, were assailed by cholera, with almost inconceivable fury. Men previously in perfect health dropped down by dozens; and those even less seriously affected were generally dead or past recovery within less than an hour. The spasms of the extremities and trunk were dreadful; and distressing vomiting and purging were present in all. Besides those who died, above five hundred were admitted into hospital on that day. On the following two days, the disease continued unabated, and more than one half of the army were then ill.

In April, 1783, its prevalence at Hurdwar, on the Ganges, was alarming in the extreme. It was computed that from one to two millions of people had assembled on the banks of

the Ganges, where they passed several days and nights crowded together, and exposed to a burning sun by day, and to heavy dews and cold blasts from the mountains at night.

The cholera suddenly appeared among this crowd of devotees, and was undoubtedly generated among them, and raged with such violence as to destroy above twenty thousand people in the short space of eight days. But it is a remarkable fact that this disease did not spread from this point, not even to the villages within a few miles, and ceased immediately on the dispersion of the multitude who had assembled at Hurdwar.

In 1787, the cholera prevailed at Vellore, Arcot, and Trincomallee. At these places it raged with great violence, and so rapid was its progress, that many were carried off in twelve hours.

In 1790, the cholera again appeared, and was very destructive in a detachment of Bengal troops, marching thro' the Northern Circars, in the months of March, April, May, and June, of 1790. In one division, consisting of one thousand artillerists, the cholera made victims of seven hundred in six days. Hundreds dropped down in every day's advance, and covered the roads with dead and dying; the ground of encampment, and line of march, presented the appearance of a field of battle, and of the track of an army retreating under every circumstance of discomfiture

and distress. From the military returns, it appears, that in one fatal week, of 11,500 fighting men of all descriptions, 764 fell victims to the disorder ; and of the camp followers, it was conjectured, that about 800, or, one-tenth of the whole, was cut off.

Dr. George Hamilton Bell, an eminent practitioner, during the worst stages of the cholera in India says, in an able article on the subject :—“The invasion of cholera is so insidious, that the individual attacked may be quite unconscious of the presence of the first stage of it. Generally speaking, indeed, it is only to be detected by those well acquainted with the disease, and by careful observation. Not only in this stage, but throughout the whole course of the disease, the appearance of the countenance is one of most highly characteristic symptoms. An intimate friend, perhaps, observes, that the person attacked has an expression of anxiety, that his complexion is unnaturally earthy, and that his eyes seem sunk in his head. In reply to inquiries, the patient will perhaps deny that he is unwell: he may say, however, he is a little deaf; and if minutely questioned, he may admit that he has indescribable sensations of being out of order, and that he is unaccountably depressed and listless; he may have no nausea, but he has tormina of the bowels, and perhaps an uncomfortable sensation of heat at the pit of the

stomach; the pulse will be found quick and weak; the hands and feet cold; and he has had one or more unnatural alvine discharges. The first of these is generally characteristic; there is a sudden call, and the whole intestines seem to be at once emptied, followed by a feeling of weakness.

“It is unfortunate that the first stage of cholera is only to be discovered by the most experienced eye; and that even when the patient himself has a suspicion of his condition, the risk of exposing himself to ridicule, from its being ‘a false alarm,’ may keep him silent, while the acknowledgment of his fears might have been the means of saving his life. It is to this insidious approach of a malady at all times so mortal, that, in part at least, must be ascribed its being so alarmingly destructive on its first breaking out at a station—patients being extremely apt to go beyond remedial measures before they seek assistance.

On the 23rd of August, 1820, it raged at Chittagong, far around the eastern corner of the tract lying east of the Bay of Bengal; at the same moment in Rajshahy, a central district lying east of the Ganges; and not a week afterwards, in the high and distant tracts of Bhaugulpore and Monghyr. Soon after the middle of September, the disease, now strictly epidemical, extended itself in every direction. Within the area of several thousand

miles, thus in so short a period brought under its influence, few towns or villages of any considerable size wholly escaped its attacks. The only spots on the eastern side of the Ganges, beyond the precincts of Bengal, attacked by the epidemic in the autumn of 1817, were Moozufferpore and Chupra, the principal stations of the Tirhoot and Sarun districts; and the cantonment of Ghazeepore; and in each of these places its attacks were confined to the towns themselves, or villages in their immediate vicinity: the great bulk of the adjoining country, at this period entirely escaping the disease.

In the month of November it reached the central division of the grand army then encamped in India, where the disease put forth all its strength, and assumed its most deadly and appalling form. After creeping about, however, in its wonted insidious manner, for several days among the lower classes of the camp followers; it, as it were in an instant, gained fresh vigor, and at once burst forth with irresistible violence in every direction. Unsubjected to the laws of contact and proximity of situation, which had been observed to mark, and retard the course of other pestilences, it surpassed the plague in the width of its range; and outstripped the most fatal diseases, hitherto known, in the destructive rapidity of its progress, sparing neither sex nor age in the undistinguishing virulence of

its attacks. The old and the young, the European and the native, fighting men and camp followers, were alike subject to its visits; and all equally sunk in a few hours under its most powerful grasp. The sick were so numerous, and still pouring in so quickly from every quarter, that the medical men, although night and day at their posts, were no longer able to administer to their necessities. The whole camp then put on the appearance of a hospital. The noise and bustle almost inseparable from the intercourse of large bodies of people, had nearly subsided. Nothing was to be seen, but individuals anxiously hurrying from one division of the camp to another to inquire after the fate of their dead and dying companions; and melancholy groups of natives bearing the biers of their departed relatives to the river. At length, even this consolation was denied them; for the mortality finally became so great, that there was neither time nor hands to carry off the bodies; which were then thrown into neighbouring ravines, or hastily committed to the earth, on the spots in which they had expired and even round the walls of the officers' tents. All business had given way to solicitude for the suffering. Not a smile could be discerned, nor a sound heard except the groans of the dying and the wailing over the dead. Throughout the night especially a gloomy silence, interrupted

only by the well known dreadful sounds of poor wretches laboring under the distinguishing symptoms of the disease, universally prevailed.

In all that we have advanced on the painful and unpleasant subject, to which these papers are devoted, especially in reference to the probably speedy approach of cholera to this continent, we are thus sustained by a discerning and eloquent writer in the *London Sun*, of recent date.

“The great scourge of humanity—a scourge more awful than Attila and his Huns—more terrible than the eruptions of a volcano—more devastating than the throes of an earthquake—the great scourge of the *Cholera*—is at this moment advancing towards us with silent but indomitable rapidity, if we may believe the intelligence received almost daily from the frontiers of the Russian empire. Its course is described as being north-westerly, and it is said already to have penetrated into the interior of Europe. God defend us from the agonies which desolated the world in 1832! Those agonies are not yet forgotten; nor can years obliterate the recollection of a pestilential malady so mysterious in its character, so inexorable in its diffusion, and so inexplicably dismal in its progress through the nations of Christendom. It pressed forward like an avenging fiend, and decimated the nations, as at a breath of the

Nemesis. This terrible and destructive plague has again made its appearance. After ravaging the territory of the Calmucks, it has disseminated in contagion among the serfs of Nicholas. It has travelled from the walls of Astrachan to the hovels of Charkay, and appears to have already descended like a curse upon the inhabitants of Kiev, on the banks of the Dnieper. There may unquestionably be much exaggeration in the accounts received from Caucasia, namely, that during an interval of nine months no less than 17,050 individuals were attacked with the disease in that kingdom, and that out of these 6,310 perished. There may be likewise a certain degree of exaggeration in the assertion, that during its passage through the streets of Astrachan, 137 persons were smitten down with the cholera in a single day, viz: the 30th of July. But, heightened as in all its likelihood the intelligence is, by the fear of its recipients, there cannot be a moment's doubt but that the pestilence is again abroad upon the wings of the wind, and that it is stealing gradually towards the centre of continental Europe. With the experience of 1832 before them, it becomes the bounden duty of the legislature to provide such measures of precaution as may tend to mitigate the miseries resulting from the cholera, in the event of its advancing so far in a south-westerly direction as to assail the population of these islands. Better even than the vigilance of the most stringent code of quarantine, are those simple measures of sanatory legislation for which we have clamored so

long and so earnestly. A contagion that defies the obstacles of quarantine, may be deprived of a considerable portion of its virulence by the systematic cleanliness introduced among a whole people by a proper scheme of sanitary legislation. Is not this self-evident? And, being self-evident, shall its importance be depreciated, when the great scourge of the cho era is for a second time impending over the plains and cities of the eastern and western hemisphere? God forbid! God forbid that men should be so blind to the dictates of reason, or rather, that they should shut their eyes against the truth which is forced upon their comprehension as if by instinct! The warning voice which comes to us from the banks of the Dnieper, tells us of the danger; the combined arguments of experience, reason, and instinct, proclaim to us how that danger may be in the readiest manner avoided, or, in the more terrible extremity, how its anger may be in the most efficient manner assuaged."

JOHN WHEELER,

NEW YORK, 1849.

29 Greenwich-street

CHURCHMAN

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TREATISE
ON
CHOLERA.

THIS most dreadful scourge and visitation upon the human family has again made the circuit of nearly two-thirds of the globe, with all its devastating consequences; spreading death and terror as it advances, leaving nothing but horror, misery, and despair behind. It does not come within the province of a publication, like this, to enter into the causes of this dire and malignant malady, or to know if it be the dispensation of an Almighty Being for the wickedness of mankind; or for what other purposes the All-seeing God has thought it necessary to depopulate portions of the earth. It is enough for us to know that it is steadily advancing upon us, if it be not at our doors already, and the sense implanted in our

natures, for our self-preservation, at once demands our attention, and recommends to our prudence that we avail ourselves of such means which will enable us to combat so potent and so terrible an enemy.

In the brief preface to this treatise, the author has stated that during the years 1832 and 1834, he had frequent occasions to test the virtues of a preparation called Balsam of Moscatello (long previously known to him) in the most malignant cases of Asiatic Cholera, and that in not a single instance did he fail, by the timely and prudent application of this remedy, together with other appropriate prescriptions, to accomplish a speedy and a permanent cure, even after other medical men had exhausted every means to attain the same desirable result.

The *Balsam of Moscatello* is not only known in the United States, as an excellent and efficient medicine in all intestinal derangements, but the good reports of its administration have reached distant lands. Through the instrumentality of a merchant, it has been introduced into Russia, where even a limited supply produced the most satisfactory results, and elicited the warmest

commendation from several eminent medical practitioners. During the brilliant campaign of our victorious army in Mexico, when many a brave soldier all but escaped the *cannon's shot*, to suffer death by *diarrhœa*, in numerous instances, the cordial influence of this healing and reviving balsam imparted vigor to the sufferer, and enabled him to go "rejoicing on his march." In England its important properties have been acknowledged, and claimed for it the golden opinions of liberal and unbiassed physicians. In fact, it may be relied upon as a boon to mankind, in alleviating and curing several of the most acute, dangerous and sudden maladies to which the human system is liable.

I am aware of the scepticism prevalent in the community relative to ALL remedies which have acquired publicity through the medium of the press. By its means truth and falsehood are alike disseminated throughout the land. The latter, it is true, after a brief career, expires, entailing disgrace, dishonor, and merited infamy on its mercenary propagators; but unfortunately, in too many cases, founders in its vortex those truths which should and would benefit mankind.

Of such remedies that have escaped the scepticism of the public are those useful remedies, James' and Dover's Powders and this Balsam of Moscatello.

The necessity, then, and vital importance of having an efficient remedy as a safeguard against the sudden attacks of this disease, cannot be too seriously impressed on the minds of the community. The great erring principle of human nature, is procrastination! Some individuals lull themselves into fancied security, from the intervention of frost, which they imagine has the peculiar power of "killing" disease, or checking the cholera. Little do they dream in their philosophy of the power of the latent principle of this depopulator of nations. Its erratic course is beyond the comprehension of man. Localities have been spared its blighting influence, as if by a special interposition of Providence, whilst in other places subject to its peculiar phenomena, the atmosphere, with the quickness of lightning, has received this messenger of death, and thousands have fallen victims to its devastating course.

The cholera broke out in the following places, at the dates annexed :

At Moscow, (Russia) Sept. 28th, 1830.

Sunderland, (England) Oct. 28th, 1832.

Quebec (America) June 8th, 1832.

New York, June 28th, 1832.

Philadelphia, July 30th, 1832.

Louisville, September 18th, 1832.

Cincinnati, September 30th, 1832.

Nashville, December 18th, 1832.

In Cincinnati the cholera had ceased almost entirely on the first of December, and there was none of it (unless, perhaps, two or three cases) during the winter of 1832-3. In April or May next, it again broke out, and prevailed in Cincinnati with considerable severity during the summer. In the winter it was again latent, but in the summer of 1834 it again broke out, but in the latter part of the season it entirely disappeared, when in October, it again broke out, a large number of cases occurring in one night, after which it entirely disappeared.

Of its progress in the United States, the following facts are worth noticing. It landed at the Quarantine Ground, Quebec, from an *emigrant ship*. It passed up the St. Lawrence to Montreal with the emigrants. It passed down the Champlain canal in *canal*

boats. It passed along the Erie canal in *canal boats.* It passed along the Lakes in *steamboats.* It broke out among the soldiers of Scott's army in steamboats. It arrived at Chicago. It passed with them to the Upper Mississippi. It reached Louisville in the steamboat Columbus. It ascended the Ohio in steamboats. It arrived at Louisville before Cincinnati, before Wheeling, and at Wheeling before Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh was but 400 miles by land from Philadelphia, and yet cholera arrived at Pittsburgh by a circuitous *water course* of 3000 miles. But in that water travelling it pursued steadily the line of passengers, emigrants and business.

This fact is not to be got over by any theory. It signalizes the progress of cholera in the United States more than any other thing.

Injudicious treatment of this complaint has also increased the awful mortality. Many physicians, wedded to their own favorite theories, have discarded the measures dictated by common sense; and although the fallacy of their treatment has been strikingly manifested by the most signal want of success, still unconvinced, they hold to their skill as being the most sound.

It is not my wish or intention to cast reflections on any one of my professional brethren, as it is too notorious that many of them, with a self-sacrificing spirit, have nobly exerted themselves in the midst of the most imminent peril to rescue their fellow-creatures from this insidious disease. I merely reiterate my solemn conviction, that the *Balsam of Moscatello* is the most efficient remedy that can possibly be employed to meet the exigencies of every symptom of cholera. It is a medicine which has been sustained by public confidence, and the cures it has effected in the most violent and dangerous attacks of *cholera morbus*, &c., are sufficient to stamp it as a preparation most happily adapted to conquer, with the use of the other remedies, the most violent paroxysms resulting from disorders of the bowels.

As regards the question of the contagion of Cholera, I remember perusing, with considerable interest, a discussion at the Westminster Medical Society, at which were mentioned two facts that occurred in a town in the north of Scotland in 1832, at the time the Cholera was so prevalent, to which was quoted, in the London Lancet, that the popu-

lation was about 2,000, and the Cholera gradually spreading northwards; the authorities and inhabitants became alarmed; houses were white-washed; disinfecting agents were freely used, and patrols were stationed at all the approaches of the roads and by-ways, to prevent the ingress of all persons from the infected districts. The Cholera raged fiercely on almost every side. Many of the victims were known to have been seized suddenly in the open air, and death often took place in a few hours. In one small fishing village, about five miles from the town, out of a population of 300, it was reckoned that about one-half of the inhabitants were carried off by this scourge; yet in the town itself not one case occurred. Similar results I could relate in other parts of the continent, where medical men attended daily in the infected districts, and in close attendance upon the sufferers, yet they escaped and did not carry the infection to others.

In my judgment, however, the arguments thus employed rather prove that to the preventive means made use of—to the sanitary regulations enforced,—and the disin-

fecting agents employed—did the “town” allude to escape from the pestilence; and not because the disease is not contagious. To controvert the position so complacently aimed at by a majority of those who attended the discussion mentioned,—to wit, that Asiatic Cholera is not contagious—I have before me the copy of a letter from a scientific gentleman of St. Petersburg, who asserts that recent discoveries have clearly proven that the malady is in the air, and that quarantine regulations were utterly useless. He proceeds to show that when the disease was raging in the Russian capital, the air had a very singular effect on magnetic power. Whilst the Cholera was at its height, the action of the magnet was nearly neutralized; but when the disease was gradually subsiding, the magnet assumed, by degrees, its former power. As the magnet block, which used, by its electric power, to support eighty pounds, would not, during the worst time of the Cholera, support by electric attraction above thirteen pounds; and at one time, from the same alleged cause, the electro-telegraph would not work at all. But I contend that the Cholera is

both epidemic and infectious; and it is from observations and experience, which have convinced me of the facts, that I now unhesitatingly and boldly affirm the correctness of my judgment, in adopting and recommending the Balsam of Moscatello, both as a sure preventive and a certain cure for this disease. Those undoubtedly able and scientific gentlemen, who express themselves so warmly in favor of an almost indiscriminate use of calomel and opium, are not only divided in their opinions as to the precise nature of the malady, but they are also at issue upon the proper mode of administering *their* remedy, and persist in remaining ignorant of the therapeutical agents in the preparation I have ever successfully used in my extended practice.

I argue, and no competent medical authority will deny the fact, that if the small-pox may be communicated across a street, why not the much more fatal disease, which it is now my desire to explain to my non-professional readers? Contagious atmosphere, if you please, thrown off from the body of a person afflicted with this disease, the poisoned exhalations from the lungs and the skin, su-

perinduced by the blood being contaminated all parts of the body participate in the evil which is communicated to the secretories and excretories; and this poison may be dispersed in the air, or confined by the clothes. To illustrate the manner in which miasm may be conveyed, I will mention the common instance of a tobacco smoker scenting a street, every atom of which odour has proceeded from his fumigatory enjoyment. We know nothing of the nature of these exhalations more than that one is a vegetable and the other an animal product; and in the present state of our knowledge, we cannot fix the limits of their influence on our senses or our bodies. All miasmata are volatile, and are suspended in the air and follow its movements. These emanations proceeding from a number of persons affected with cholera, or any other infectious disease, may thus, in certain states of the atmosphere, retain sufficient force and concentration to infect individuals at a distance, who--*from the absence of proper preventives*, such as those I urgently recommend—are predisposed to receive their impression.

The symptoms in the early stage of malignant Cholera are somewhat obscure; sometimes an obstinate costiveness, or torpor of the bowels, exists, but most generally it commences with a rumbling sound in the intestines, arising from a collection of flatus, or wind; slight diarrhœa, or an uneasy purging, such as generally accompanies an unhealthy relaxation of the bowels. Unfortunately, indications of this character are most generally overlooked. The imagination desiring that it shall be *nothing particular*, too frequently induces a culpable inattention to the deranged condition of the system, resulting in entire prostration, and after in painful and horrible death. An old adage says, "an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure," and by a little attention and JUDICIOUS TREATMENT, the worst symptoms may be overcome and life preserved. The progress of this premonitory action is increased diarrhœa, nausea, or sickness at the stomach. An eminent and an experienced writer says, "that this disease is almost as infallibly prevented by early attention, as an incipient conflagration is extinguished by a copious effusion of water.

I therefore, cannot avoid dwelling upon and impressing this important fact upon the minds of every individual. The symptoms still increasing, the system may now be said to be completely under the influence of malignant Asiatic Cholera. The purging is followed by a great weight in the bowels and stomach, and cramps, vomiting, and great debility quickly attend each additional step; followed by a diminished action of the heart and arteries, and a consequent coldness over the skin of the whole body.

A change in the voice is one of the earliest symptoms. The symptoms increase, if not checked by medicine; cramps of the most violent description come on, chiefly in the feet, calves of the legs, thighs, and hands, which cause such excruciating tortures, that even the most resolute are unable to resist screeching out. The skin now becomes quite cold, assumes the blueish hue so remarkable in cholera, and in a short time you will find it corrugated in almost every part, reminding one exactly of a woman's hand after washing for several hours. You will also be struck by the very peculiar countenance of the patient; the features are all sharpened;

the eyes sunk in the orbits, but staring wildly; the tongue, if you place your finger on it, will be found quite cold; the patient's breath, if he breathes on your hand, is also cold. All this time the patient screams out for cold water, or drink; if you ask him, is he cold, he says, no, he is burning hot; he wants something cold to drink. It has never been actually tested how much a man in this state would drink, but fancy it would be something enormous, for he generally throws it up as fast as he drinks it; sometimes, one would fancy, by a spasm of the œsophagus, for it has hardly time to reach the stomach and still, while he is vomiting, he stretches out his livid hands, crying, more, more! It is a remarkable feature in cholera, that a patient seldom makes water during the existence of the disease; indeed not more than three or four instances of patients voiding urine in true Asiatic cholera are on record. The skin secretes perspiration, the mucous membrane mucous, and the saliva glands saliva, for it frequently has been known in the last stage of cholera, when his strength was completely exhausted, spit nearly across the room, and in the same way eject water while drink,

ing. The change in the countenance is most wonderful in so short a time; men whom I have known intimately, I have been unable to recognize. Restlessness is a very marked feature, it is almost the only sign of raving I have usually remarked; a patient will tell all about his symptoms, how he was attacked, talk of his will and of all his affairs in a most rational manner, yet he will constantly try, while no one is watching, to get out of bed, to turn from one side to the other, kick off the bed-clothes, and rail at everything. This species of case, if it ends fatally, generally does so in one or two ways—either the purging and, occasionally, the vomiting continue almost to the end, or else both cease and the patient dies, laboring under the symptoms of effusion on the brain; the pupils are dilated and fixed, it is impossible to rouse him, and his breathing is stertorous.

It appears, then, from the writings of most all the first medical men on the continent, that they all agree that the first symptoms of the Cholera commence with diarrhœa, which, if proper remedies were immediately resorted to, the majority of those attacked would be spared, and those violent sufferings

which ensue from the neglect of treating (in all appearance) so trifling a complaint. Now as diarrhœa seems to be the forerunner of this dreadful scourge, why are families so tardy in procuring one of the most efficacious and best tried medicines that ever emanated from the *materia medica*—viz., the Balsam of Moscatello, the virtues of which some of the most respectable families in this city have had ample proof, and are ready to substantiate. I can with the greatest confidence assert, that from the experience I had of the treatment of the Cholera in 1832 and 1834, it is a certain cure for this dreadful scourge. Persons who have paid attention to the ravages of this disease on the continent, will find that more than two-thirds of those who were attacked fell victims to it; how, then, can it be said that the treatment pursued was a proper one? One of the sheet-anchors of medical men is opium, which I consider to be very injurious to the recovery of the patient, because while it may relieve the pain it but prolongs the disease, as the acrimonious and corrupt humours which ought to be discharged, are by the use of this drug detained within the system, and exert their

pernicious powers upon the blood. There is another remedy which was strongly advocated here in 1834, namely, the use of ice. Let me ask the advocates of it, how many, of their patients recovered under its exhibition? and I will boldly assert, who ever has recourse to such a remedy must sink under its influence.

As regards the mode of treatment that has been adopted here, I would, with all due deference to the skill of my professional brethren, who have extolled the use of calomel and opium in such large doses, simply ask, have they not discovered their practice to be founded upon erroneous principles, and the use of either of those articles, administered in the way they have prescribed to be used, to be very injurious to the patient? Opium, I will admit, relieves the sufferer of the excruciating pain, while the effect of it is produced and lasts; but, at the same time, it causes the disease to remain in the system, and by that means makes such an inroad on the system that no remedies will reach it, as the intestines, in general, are overloaded with the worst of acrid secretions. Is opium, then, a proper medicine to be administered?

Is it not more desirable to have the intestines properly freed from all the bilious secretions, and, at the same time, taking the precaution that proper remedies should be applied to prevent spasms; and gradually to brace the system for this purpose, I do not consider a more valuable medicine can be used than the Balsam of Moscatello. The jealousy which ever characterizes the faculty, debars me from making known the composition of this article to the public, but I will challenge any one to produce a medicine that will have a better effect and act more immediately on diseases of the bowels, at the same time to be so directly beneficial.

Now as regards calomel, who ever would think of giving it in doses of scruples, and even in much larger quantities, as have been prescribed in this country? They must be convinced it has but little effect upon the blood, and must act very injuriously upon the patient's system and constitution; and, even should he overcome the disease, he will be, during the remainder of his days, tormented with Rheumatism, and with a poor, feeble, mercurialised constitution. On the injurious effects of this drug, I will give

the opinion of Dr. C. W. Bell, K. L. S., and physician to the Manchester Infirmary, and late physician to H. M. embassy in Persia, as worthy of notice, being formed from his long experience of a series of epidemics which raged in Persia, in 1842, when he was attached to the embassy and was in the medical charge of the Persian army. He considers that opium is likely to prove injurious in the treatment of Cholera, by diminishing the sensibility (irritability?) of the heart. He disapproves even of the ordinary use of calomel while cholera prevails, and still more of its employment in the disease itself.

Ollapod, H. C. S. Madras, justly remarks, that opium in every shape, given in cholera, too universally resorted to, tends to embarrass the cerebral functions, causing pervigilation, and, by consequence, commotion of the vis-vitæ.

Another very eminent French physician, Monsieur Broussais, who had charge of the cholera patients at Val de Grace, says, in a work recently published under the auspices of the medical faculty of Paris, that opium, either in small doses as a stimulant, or in large ones as a sedative, was equally unfit to be relied upon. The last class specified,

comprises calomel, with or without opium, cold water, salines, and quinines; although the author never met with a single case of real cholera in which he could trace the recovery of the patient to the influence of calomel, nor ever observed that it produced any specific effect whatever.

Dr. King, who had the charge of a large district during the prevalence of cholera, remarks, that he invariably found calomel and opium to be very unsuccessful in the treatment of this disease, and such you will find to be the case from other medical men in Europe, who have had to treat the real Asiatic cholera.

A letter was recently published in several of the journals of the day from the Hon. R. J. Walker, dated Washington, December 6th, in which the writer speaks in terms of almost unrestricted praise of the successful mode of treatment for Cholera sometime ago adopted by Dr. Samuel A. Cartwright, a distinguished physician of Natchez, Miss. I am glad to find that the system invariably pursued by me is, with the almost single exception of my own important discovery, similar to that which has elicited from Mr. Walker the encomiums I have mentioned. In the

course of his communication, he says that he is convinced not only of the uselessness, but the absolute danger, of opium, and concludes his very interesting missive, by invoking upon all persons *precautionary measures* as being of the greatest importance. Among these, he says, are "a cheerful temperament, an exemption from all excitement, a brave heart resolved to do its duty, and leave the result to Providence. Dry, airy, and comfortable apartments, elevated above the ground, with a great regard to coolness and free use of proper disinfecting agents; plain nutritious diet, with less of vegetable food, and entire abstinence from all stimulating drinks, with rest undisturbed, and, above all, the immediate application of the remedies, both of friction and medicine, at the very instant of the attack, are important."

Thus, it will be seen, is my principle sustained by persons of high authority in the United States, as well as by men of exalted reputation in Europe. The celebrated Dr. Leonard Stewart, of London, in an address recently delivered by him before a large and enlightened number of the medical faculty, declared that he had no faith in opium for

the cure of Cholera; and that in relation to those who insisted upon the disease being non-contagious, the most staggering argument against such a doctrine was the fact of its invariably appearing in sea ports—although he admitted that local circumstances might occur to cause it in such places as well as elsewhere.

For the management of the remedies in the early stages of the disease, if at the beginning there is great weight at the chest and inclination to vomit, mix half a tea spoonful Cayenne, a tea spoonful salt, two table spoonfuls vinegar in half pint warm water, and take the whole of it at once. After this has acted upon the stomach, which it will do by creating vomiting; (this dose is for an adult, therefore according to the age of the patient divide the quantity)—when this has acted freely take half of the powder, (accompanying the Balsam of Moscatello) to be mixed in a table spoonful of honey or molasses, or any other syrup, and taken, and after fifteen minutes have elapsed, take the remaining half of the powder in the same manner. This will at once clear the bowels, and cause a sufficient reaction to

secure recovery. The powder which I have recommended, promptly relieves the stomach of the offending matters which tend to increase the existing irritation, and it effectually emulges the liver; whilst the Balsam exercises a soothing and tonic influence, which at once produces its remedial and happy results. Take a wine-glassfull of the Balsam of Moscatello, made as warm as it can be conveniently swallowed; and repeat half a wine glass of the same, if cramps be present, every hour; if, however, cramps are not present, the Balsam should be taken every two or three hours, till relief is afforded; at the same time applying either hot bricks or bottles filled with hot water, wrapped in flannel, to the region of the stomach, inner part of the thighs, and upon the soles of the feet. The patient should be, under every circumstance, placed between blankets, and active and severe friction be resorted to. The patient should be kept in a recumbent position, under the bed clothes, and the defecations received in a bed pan, for if the patient be faint it is exceedingly dangerous for him to be removed from the bed—the bed-pan after it is used, should be rinsed out with chloride

of lime and water, and the patient should in all cases be restrained from removing the covering from the body. When febrile symptoms, or fever, are present in the early stage, *three grains of tartar emetic* should be dissolved in a pint of boiling water, and when cool, a table spoonful every half hour should be administered, until the fever abates, and perspiration appears upon the surface of the skin. If the evacuations from the bowels are slimy, or surcharged with mucus, and offensive, *an injection* of a table spoonful of molasses, a tea spoonful of table salt, a tea spoonful of laudanum, and a pint of blood-warm water, should be administered. This done, and the dejections still proceeding to the peculiar "rice water" appearance, characterising this affection; an injection of a wine glass full of Balsam of Moscatello, mixed with a half-pint of warm water, is to be used as warm as it can be admitted by the patient. For the purpose of allaying the irritability of the stomach, the following formula will be found to act most advantageously in combination with the Moscatello :

Rj Super. Carbonate of Sodæ, ℥ss
 Muriate of Sodæ, ℥j.
 Chlorate of Potass Gr vij.
 Misce.

Divide into two powders, one to be taken night and morning; (but in cases of violent sickness of the stomach or looseness of the bowels, the dose may be increased and taken every hour,) in a little water, tea, or soup. If the patient at any time should reject the Moscatello, let the dose be reduced to about half a wine glass, and repeated every half hour till relief is obtained.

So complete and decided are the actions of the powders and Balsam of Moscatello, with the adjuncts of the two or three simple remedies mentioned, that, were I so disposed, I might fill a volume with successful cases cured in this manner, at the period when the malignant Cholera first made its appearance in 1832 and 1834. One or two cases I cannot help mentioning, and which indeed are the types of the numerous cases successfully treated by me. I mention these cases without the knowledge or authority of the persons named, that those interested, (and who are not?) may proceed to the dwellings of those gentlemen, and there hear for themselves; and behold the ocular demonstrative proofs in the living monuments of my success; AND BE IT REMEMBERED, that in each instance;

these were *after their previous medical attendants had given up their cases as being beyond hope, and had left them to the powers of Nature.* Mr. and Mrs. David Haig, No. 100, Mercer Street, were under the influence of malignant Cholera, in its worst form. I found them in the "collapsed stage;" voice and pulse gone, and so far as death could be reached, they, I may say, were within his grasp. With the few simple rules above mentioned, they at once rallied and recovered, exemplifying the adage, "Whilst there is life there is hope."

The next person I refer to, is Captain Depeyster, now Superintendent of the "Sailor's Snug Harbour." This gentleman has had ample opportunities of testing and observing the unqualified benefits that the excellent properties of the Balsam of Moscatello have produced in numerous cases of Asiatic Cholera, and the ordinary diarrhœa and cholera morbus.

The case of the Count de Otrante, (a gentleman well known to the diplomatic corps at all the courts of Europe) afflicted with the Spasmodic Cholera, on board the packet ship Columbus, F. A. Depeyster, com-

mander, is peculiarly worthy of notice. Captain Depeyster, in a communication to Dr. Wheeler, in addition to the vital benefit, the Balsam produced in the Count's case, goes on saying, " I feel great pleasure in testifying to the great efficacy of this medicine ; it having given immediate relief, *not only to myself*, but also to several of my crew, who were severally attacked with Diarrhœa and Spasmodic Cholera ; and so high in estimation do I hold the virtues of this compound as a medicine for this dreadful malady, that I think every packet ship, as well as all other vessels, should be properly and amply supplied with it."

'The Balsam, then, will produce all the results required for the cure of Asiatic Cholera. The vomiting and purgings being stayed, it now behoves the attendants to be careful of the food administered. It will be borne in mind that the patient is not *well* because he is *better*. The greatest care is necessary that the food be light, nutritious, and free from all acrid, or anything likely to be irritating in its nature ; avoiding, for a few days, animal food. The beverage should be toast water, or good wine well diluted, and warm.

DIRECTIONS FOR USE.

1st. *For Diarrhœa, or Cholera Morbus.*

When the discharges of the patient exhibit no unnatural appearance, but are merely in a relaxed state, the Balsam alone will be sufficient to effect a cure without the aid of any other medicine. For a dose, take a wine glass full every hour until relieved. In very violent cases, when the attacks are unusually severe, the tongue foul, with an unpleasant taste in the mouth, which indicate that the stomach is surcharged with bile, an adult should take one half of the powder, and fifteen minutes afterwards the remaining half on going to bed. When this medicine has operated, then continue with the Balsam as prescribed for the different ages.

Young persons from twelve to fifteen years of age, a small wine glass full of the Balsam.

For an adult, a good wine glass full.

It is important to observe, that the operation of this valuable medicine will be much accelerated by being administered as warm as the patient can conveniently take it.

In all cases where the looseness of the bowels, or any symptoms of griping pains

should continue upon the patient, the dose of the Balsam should be repeated every hour till relief is obtained; and when it proceeds into the malignant form, or collapsed state of the Asiatic Cholera, take for a male adult, a wine glass and a half of the Balsam, as hot as can possibly be taken, and apply bottles of hot water or hot bricks, wrapped in flannel, to the stomach and feet. For a female adult, a wine glass full of the Balsam. For children under fifteen years, a smaller quantity in proportion to their age; and those under five years, about half a wine glass of it, diluted with the same quantity of hot water. The patient must retire to bed, and use every means as above, to induce profuse perspiration, as a preventive of cramp.—Should the dose not remain on the stomach (which only happens when the latter is in an extreme state,) it must be repeated, and again repeated every half hour, until relief be obtained.

Follow the directions as given; but provided the bowels should be very relaxed, and in the watery state, then administer an injection made of a wine glass full of Moscatello, and the same quantity of molasses,

mixed in a pint of warm water. After it has operated, give the Balsam as directed, and use the warm application to the feet and bowels. On no account, is the patient to take water; but if thirsty, a little cold toast and water.

It would be advantageous to have a small tin vessel kept in the bed room, with a bottle of the Balsam, so that if a person were to be attacked in the night, by holding the vessel (containing the dose of the Balsam) over a candle or night lamp, the delay occasioned by lighting a fire to warm the medicine would be altogether avoided. Attention to this may be the means of frequently preventing a *severe attack* of this disease.

If the bowels of the patient, as above stated, do not exhibit any unnatural appearance, but are merely in a very relaxed state, the Balsam alone will be sufficient to effect a cure, without having recourse to any opening medicine whatever.

The importance of clean streets need not be adverted to here, this being merely a personal matter between the afflicted and the disease. It is to be hoped the Corporation will attend to the one; the patient is

sure to attend to the other. If both be carried out, the cholera, and all other epidemics, may, to a great extent be put at defiance. From the position and topography of New York, our city ought to be one of the most healthy cities in the world. With the many natural advantages, which few others in any part of the world possess, it could be rendered so clean, that no aliment could be found to provide for any disease to live upon. The ground gradually ascends from both the East and North Rivers to the centre, which may be called the back-bone of the island, furnishing unrivalled means for carrying off all surface water. Within the past year or two, a great portion of the city has been sewerred, and in addition to all this, we have a bountiful supply of pure water, by means of the Croton Aqueduct. Still, in spite of all these, New York is emphatically a dirty city. The streets are never clean, except after a deluge of rain. They could, however, be made so, with a little trouble, and I trust that some movement of the kind will be undertaken before the pestilence shall be among us.

My readers can perceive, therefore, that

if a system of cleanliness of the person, and the cleanliness of the streets and the houses of our city be adopted and followed out, there need be no feeling of alarm at the approach of the cholera. In one month, we could make such arrangements as would enable us to put the scourge, as it were, *hors de combat*. When we have the means of doing so, it were madness not to avail ourselves of the blessings we possess for meeting this virulent disease. It is certain that, on the disease breaking out in an epidemic form, everybody is more or less affected by the malady, and I know on former occasions that every one felt more or less derangement of the system—cholic, lassitude, and a variety of similar sensations, particularly indicating the germ of the disease in the body, which notwithstanding, may be only developed by some act of imprudence. It is now proved that no case of cholera arises spontaneously, and that every one may avoid the chance of attack, that is with common care and precaution, except, however, the poorer classes, who have unfortunately not the necessary means. The three chief causes of its developement where the

system is within the miasmatic influence of the disease, are cold, derangement of the stomach, and violent mental agitation. The abdomen should be covered with two or three folds of flannel, and every precaution taken against cold. Fear is an active cause in superinducing this affection, over-fatigue, and exposure to night air, and above every thing else, the morning atmosphere at sunrise. Every house in the infected district should be simultaneously fumigated with Chlorine Gas, and to do it effectually, a mixture of three parts of common salt and one of black oxide of manganese, should be placed just inside the outer or street door of the dwelling house, and a little common vitriol poured upon it. The inward current of air will convey the chlorine gas to every part of the interior, and wherever it can be smelt, the effect is produced--the miasma is destroyed.

Let immediate attention be paid to the above rules, however slightly the bowels may be disordered.

Let every room be kept completely dry and well ventilated, a free current of air, if possible, should be allowed to pass through,

every apartment. Acids, fruits, and vegetables should be avoided. The upper story rooms should be used as dormitories.

These internal domestic sanitary measures, with the treatment above laid down, will do more to check and, when it appears, to cure the malignant cholera, than all the combined *cordons* and quarantines of the world can accomplish.

The Cholera, when remedies are taken for its first symptoms, need not to be dreaded except by drunkards and persons of a very bilious habit, and living in contaminations, &c. It may, then, be asked by those unacquainted with its progress, or insidious approach, how those symptoms are to be known, so as to instruct them on this point? I have, in this little treatise, pointed them out, and their proposed treatment, which if only attended to, many, many lives will be saved, and the deaths will fall very short of those usually published under the former treatment. On examination of the practice, hitherto, of the medical professors to combat such a terrible disease, I find that they have only applied themselves to allay its symptoms; they have neglected its source and

thereby eradicating the cause, failing in which, there can be no cure. It is evident, when two-thirds die out of the number attacked, that those prescriptions and treatment have been erroneous, and quite contrary to the indication of the case. Can any one wonder at the bad success that has attended them? I, without doubt, consider the real exciting cause of Cholera to be a highly vitiated, morbid, and acrimonious state of the humours and the blood, and being in such a state, these corrupt humours obstruct, choke up, convulse, and paralyse the *vis vitæ*; producing upon the heart and other vital organs all those natural phenomena depending upon the presence or absence of this power. The sinking of the vital energy, and coldness of the extremities, are not the causes, but the effects, and can only be relieved by taking out of the system the morbid humours which are oppressing it. To effect this, I have prescribed the powder, which soon discharges the stomach of the morbid, malignant matter collected there, and also the ejections from the intestinal canal by the natural evacuations downwards. A small dose of the Moscatello, taken warm afterwards, gives instantaneous

relief; the patient generally falls into a calm sleep, and awakes, though in a languid state, I may say, to life and health. On no account should the patient be allowed to leave the bed till totally free from spasms and perspirations, which have been caused by the warm applications recommended to be used; and though he may feel very faint, it would be very injurious to open the windows, or to expose the patient to the cold air. As to the subsequent part of the treatment to be pursued, when in a state of convalescence, great caution is to be observed to prevent the patient overloading the stomach. The food should be light and nutritious; and with his meals, (dinner) a small quantity of the best old brandy in water may be taken; and for a few days thin arrow root, a light pudding, and weak black tea, with soda biscuits, may be taken. Frequently during the day some effervescing draughts, made by dissolving half a drachm of carbonate of soda in three ounces of water, and add thereto a table-spoonful of fresh lemon juice, which must be drank off while effervescing. I should recommend all water intended for drinking, to be filtered through charcoal,

the effect would prove beneficial to those using it, being a good preventive against diarrhœa.

Occasionally I use charcoal as a preventive of cholera; and in proof of my practice being correct, I will relate that when the cholera last visited Europe, it was particularly observed, while the porters and other laborers were engaged in discharging the cargoes of vessels laden with charcoal at Malta, they were totally exempt from this disease; the same fact was noticed at all the other ports of the Mediterranean, where charcoal principally is used for fuel. The anti-septic property of this substance is believed to have been the chief cause of the exemption of this particular class of people, who inhale, in the course of their labour, the minute particles of its dust, so as to correct internally any tendency to the disease, that might have been produced by the unusual condition of the atmosphere.

In view of the apprehended visit to the British shores of the pestilential scourge, the progress of which is rapidly onward towards this continent, the Government of this country has, through its General Board of Health,

issued a long and interesting circular, from which I have taken the subjoined extracts, their views agreeing in a great measure with my own :

“The extent, uniform tenor, and undoubted authority of the evidence obtained from observers of all classes in different countries and climates, and amidst all varieties of the physical, political, and social conditions of the people, appear to discredit the once prevalent opinion that Cholera is, in itself, contagious—an opinion which, if fallacious, must be mischievous, since it diverts attention from the source of danger, and the real means of protection, and fixes it on those which are imaginary; creates panic; leads to the neglect and abandonment of the sick; occasions great expense for what is worse than useless; and withdraws attention from that brief but important interval between the commencement and the developement of the disease, during which remedial measures are most effective in its cure. Although it is so far true that certain conditions may favor its spread from person to person, as when great numbers of the sick are crowded together in close unventilated apartments, yet

this is not to be considered as affecting the general principle of its non-contagious nature, nor are such conditions likely to occur in this country. Moreover, the preventive measures founded on the theory of contagion — namely, internal quarantine regulations, sanitary cordons, and the isolation of the sick, on which, formerly, the strongest reliance was placed, have been recently abandoned in all countries where Cholera has appeared, from the general experience of their inefficiency.

“Whenever Asiatic Cholera is epidemic, the slightest degree of looseness of the bowels ought to be regarded and treated as the commencement of the disease, which at this stage is capable of being arrested by simple means, but if neglected only for a few hours, may suddenly assume a fatal form.

“Medical authorities are agreed that the remedies proper for the premonitory symptoms are the same as those found efficacious in common diarrhœa; that the most simple remedies will suffice, if given on the first manifestation of this symptom.

“Next in importance to the immediate employment of such remedies is attention to

proper diet and clothing. Whenever Asiatic Cholera is epidemic, there is invariably found among great numbers of the inhabitants an extraordinary tendency to irritation of the bowels, and this fact suggests that every article of food which is known to favor a relaxed state of the bowels should, as far as possible, be avoided—such as every variety of green vegetables, whether cooked or not, as cabbage, cucumber, or salad. It will be important also to abstain from fruits of all kinds, though ripe and even cooked, and whether dried or preserved. The most wholesome articles of vegetable diet are—well-baked but not new bread, rice, oatmeal, and good potatoes. Pickles should be avoided. Articles of food and drink which, in ordinary seasons, are generally wholesome, and agree well with the individual constitution, may, under this unusual condition, prove highly dangerous. The diet should be solid rather than fluid; and those who have the means of choosing should live principally on animal food, as affording the most concentrated and invigorating diet; avoiding salted or smoked meats, pork, salted and shell fish, cider, perry, ginger beer, lemonade, acid liquors of all

descriptions, and ardent spirits. Great moderation, both in food and drink, is absolutely essential to safety, during the whole duration of the epidemic period. One single act of indiscretion has, in many instances, been followed by a speedy and fatal attack. The intervals between the meals should not be long, Cholera being uniformly found to prevail with extraordinary intensity among the classes that observe the protracted fasts common in Eastern and some European countries.

“On account of the intimate connexion between the external skin and the internal lining membrane of the bowels, warm clothing is of great importance. The wearing of flannels next the skin is therefore advisable. Recent experience seems to show that it was useful to wear in the day time a flannel bandage round the body, and this may become necessary during the damp and cold weather of the approaching season.

“Particular attention should be paid to keeping the feet warm and dry; changing the clothes immediately after exposure to wet; and maintaining the sitting and bed rooms well aired, dry and warm.

“It may be necessary to add a caution

against the use of cold purgative medicines, such as salts, particularly Glauber salts, Epsom salts, and Seidlitz powders, which taken in any quantity, in such a season, are dangerous. Drastic purgatives of all kinds should be avoided, such as senna, colocynth and aloes, except under special medical direction.

“In conclusion, the General Board of Health would again urge the consideration that whatever is preventive of Cholera is equally preventive of typhus and of every other epidemic and constantly recurring disease; and would earnestly call the attention of all classes to the striking and consoling fact that, formidable as this malady is in its intense form and developed stage, there is no disease against which it is in our power to take such effectual precaution, both as collective communities and private individuals, by vigilant attention to it in its first premonitory stage, and by the removal of those agencies which are known to promote the spread of all epidemic diseases. Though, therefore, the issues of events are not in our hands, there is ground for hope and even confidence in the sustained and resolute em-

ployment of the means of protection which experience and science have now placed within our reach."

It will be seen, from the above, that the main features of the system so successfully adopted by me in the years 1832 and 1834 are recommended by the high authorities I have cited, and that my mode of treatment, in cases of Cholera, receives the sanction and approval of the most distinguished medical men in Europe.

Were these same eminent men abroad acquainted with the nature and properties of the Balsam, which I have confidently and unhesitatingly advised as the best specific extant for all diseases of the stomach and bowels, I doubt not that they would have endorsed its merits, and would, at once, adopt its use. Members of the medical profession, of the most exalted standing in the United States, have accorded the highest praise to the Balsam of Moscatello, and in many disorders of the character for which it is specially adapted, they have used and prescribed it when other remedies have baffled their ingenuity and skill. Under such circumstances, the author does not deem any apology necessary for

passing upon this great therapeutical combined medicine the favorable opinions which have been here freely expressed.

As an *anti-spasmodic*, the Balsam of Moscatello has not its equal in the *Materia Medica*; hence its worth has been appreciated by captains of ships, and all those whose avocations render them subject to the diseases originating in the vicissitudes of climate.

Hundreds of respectable individuals, aware of its benign properties, have provided themselves with a supply of the Balsam, as a precautionary measure, to be in readiness during their journey to *California*. They have wisely concluded, that "Health is above all *gold* and treasure," and in every spasmodic attack, a dose of Moscatello will prove of more real value to them, in the hour of need, than all the wealth in the bed of the *Sacramento*.

In the absence of any letters from the newly discovered region last mentioned, the subjoined communication is presented from one who was an adventurer on a former remarkable occasion, to a different and less healthy climate, and who is known to fame in every section of the United States. For ob-

vious reasons it would be improper to give publicity to the name of the writer in this work; Dr. Wheeler, however, has no hesitation in exhibiting the original letter to any one who may be desirous of seeing it.

New York, July 28, 1847.

Dr. Wheeler :

Sir,—Soon after my return from Texas and Mexico, in 1837, my attention was called to an editorial notice in a New York paper of your alleged cure of diarrhœa and dysentery in its worst forms. In addition, I saw the names of Major Mapes, U. S. A., and M. M. Noah, now of the “Sunday Times,” and the names of these gentlemen in recommendation of it, was a sufficient inducement for me to make an immediate trial of the same; with what results I will presently state.

During the whole of the campaign in 1836, the greatest amount of sickness and suffering endured by the Revolutionary Army of Texas was caused solely by that terrible scourge of soldiers in warm climates, viz.—diarrhœa; almost invariably terminating in dysentery and death. I speak of this fact as coming under my own immediate observation. Filling the position of

special courier to General Thomas Jefferson Rusk (commanding), now U. S. Senator, and also to Brigadier General T. J. Green, from May, 1836, until the army was disbanded, I had abundant opportunities of witnessing the frightful ravages of that scourge (diarrhœa) amongst our soldiers, at various points from the Sabine River to the Rio Grande del Norte. But it was particularly at the town of Velasco, on the Guadalupe River, that its ravages were most frightful; here, one time, daily our men died literally by dozens of this disease, called the "curse of the camp." It was here that General Stephen F. Rusk, Dr. Lyon, of Charleston, S. C.; Dr. Branch; J. Archer, of Va.; Lieut. Conrad, brother of Judge Conrad, of Philadelphia); Major Lysander Wells, of Conn.; Colonel Cook, and over a hundred other officers and soldiers, were lying sick with diarrhœa at the same time. General Austin and Dr. Lyon (the able and highly esteemed Surgeon General of the army) shortly after died of this disease. Dr. Fossgate was our regimental surgeon: he is the son of the celebrated Dr. Fossgate, of Auburn, in this state, the inventor of the celebrated "Fossgate's Anodyne Cordial," which has been termed

a specific for diarrhœa ; he knew the ingredients of his father's medicine, and had them with him there and used them, but without effect; and, finally, three camping grounds had to be abandoned in quick succession, in consequence of this scourge, and it was not until after the army was disbanded, and the majority of the men had returned to the United States, that they even partially recovered from its withering effects. All the efforts of the most skilful physicians that were with the army in Texas, (and we were well supplied) failed to effect a cure for this affliction. Amongst the rest I was taken down with this disease, and tried every supposed available remedy, under the advice of Drs Lyon, Fossgate, and Anderson, but without any beneficial effect; for three weeks recovery seemed impossible, and I did not recover until my arrival in New Orleans, after a long cruise through the Gulf. It is the recollection of the terrible sufferings I there saw and endured, that has induced me to turn my attention to the great universally prevailing cause of disease at present devastating our army at Point Isabel, Tampico, Vera Cruz, &c., &c. Of every 100 cases of

death that have occurred at those places this summer, over 90 have been from diarrhœa and dysentery, and the medical men there seem unable to check it or cure it.

I merely mention these matters, in order that you may see that I have had considerable practical experience in regard to the nature of the disease and the usual means resorted to, in order to attempt to arrest its progress. But I assure you that I never found any medicine either in Europe or this country, that would effect a radical cure of the same, until I made trial of your invaluable "*Balsam of Moscatello.*" Change of air, change of climate, and change of water will do much to alleviate, and frequently a strong constitution, with the simple assistance of nature, has done the rest in young persons; but all the middle-aged and elderly men who were then attacked in our army, invariably died from it; and amongst them many stout veterans who had endured the rigors of the campaign in the Peninsula, and wound up the same by the fight at Waterloo. I have seen many of these veterans sicken and die in six days from diarrhœa, and in less time.

After my return to New York in 1837, had

another attack of this ‘scourge,’ (probably a relapse) and after trying every thing recommended in the *Pharmacopœia*, I was induced to try your “Balsam of Moscatello,” by a gentleman, two of the members of whose family had their lives saved by it in the cholera of 1834. The effect of your medicine was most extraordinary; although I had been suffering for weeks, yet in less than six hours I was relieved from all pain, and entirely cured of the disease in less than forty-eight hours—nor did I have another attack of it in less than two years afterwards. I have used it now for years in my family, and never once knew it to fail in effecting a radical and easy cure in less than two days, and always leaving the system in a perfectly natural and healthy state.

So thoroughly convinced am I that your *Balsam of Moscatello* is a perfect specific for *Diarrhœa* and *Dysentery*, that I have on every occasion, recommended it strongly to every officer and soldier of our army, whom I knew was going to Mexico. Amongst others to Col. Cushing, Capt. Fairchild, Capt. Tompkins, and many others, all of whom I

believe supplied themselves with it, and have realised it's beneficial effects. Indeed, a near relative of mine, who commenced his campaign with Taylor at Palo Alto, and served with Twiggs at Cerro Gordo, writing me from Jalapa, states that in consequence of having your medicine with him, he has not had a day's sickness during the war, whilst many of his immediate comrades have died in a few days from Diarrhœa.

Under these circumstances, Doctor, you may be assured that I am never without a bottle of it in my house, and never travel any considerable distance without it; because change of water, even in strong constitutions, almost invariably brings on Diarrhœa; as was the case with President Polk during his late Northern tour. And from long personal and careful experience, in my own family, it is my firm conviction that your *Balsam of Moscatello* is a specific for all that class of diseases commonly known as Summer Complaint, Cholera Infantum, Bowel Complaint, Cholera Morbus, Diarrhœa, and even the worst form of Chronic Dysentery; and therefore I consider that no

family in the United States should ever be without it.

I am yours respectfully,

—

W. H. A.

I have endeavoured to lay before the reader of this treatise as many authorities in support of my system of practice in Cholera, as I could possibly crowd into the brief space which I have allotted to myself. In conclusion, I will add a few remarks from a communication lately received from Dr. Dwight, a justly eminent medical practitioner, now residing at Constantinople:—

“The Asiatic cholera, which when fairly seated, is one of the most unmanagable of all diseases—despising all human art and skill, and mocking all the assiduities of friendship, in almost all cases *begins* with a *mild diarrhœa*, which in that stage is most readily cured. True, where the cholera is raging, we are continually hearing of persons who arose well in the morning, and are in their graves before night; and it is not to be doubted that there are some cases in which the very first attack is *the collapse*, from which recovery is rare. But I can say with

truth, that *in every instance* of these sudden deaths of cholera, in which I have been able to investigate the circumstances, I have found that the individual *had been laboring under diarrhœa for days previous*. Generally this is so slight as not to be much noticed; it is attended with no pains, and no sickness of stomach, perhaps, and gives the person no particular inconvenience. But it is this very diarrhœa, which is insidiously preparing the system for the most dreadful onset of disease. Whenever the cholera is prevailing in any place, it should be a rule, in every instance, *to stop even the slightest diarrhœa immediately.*'

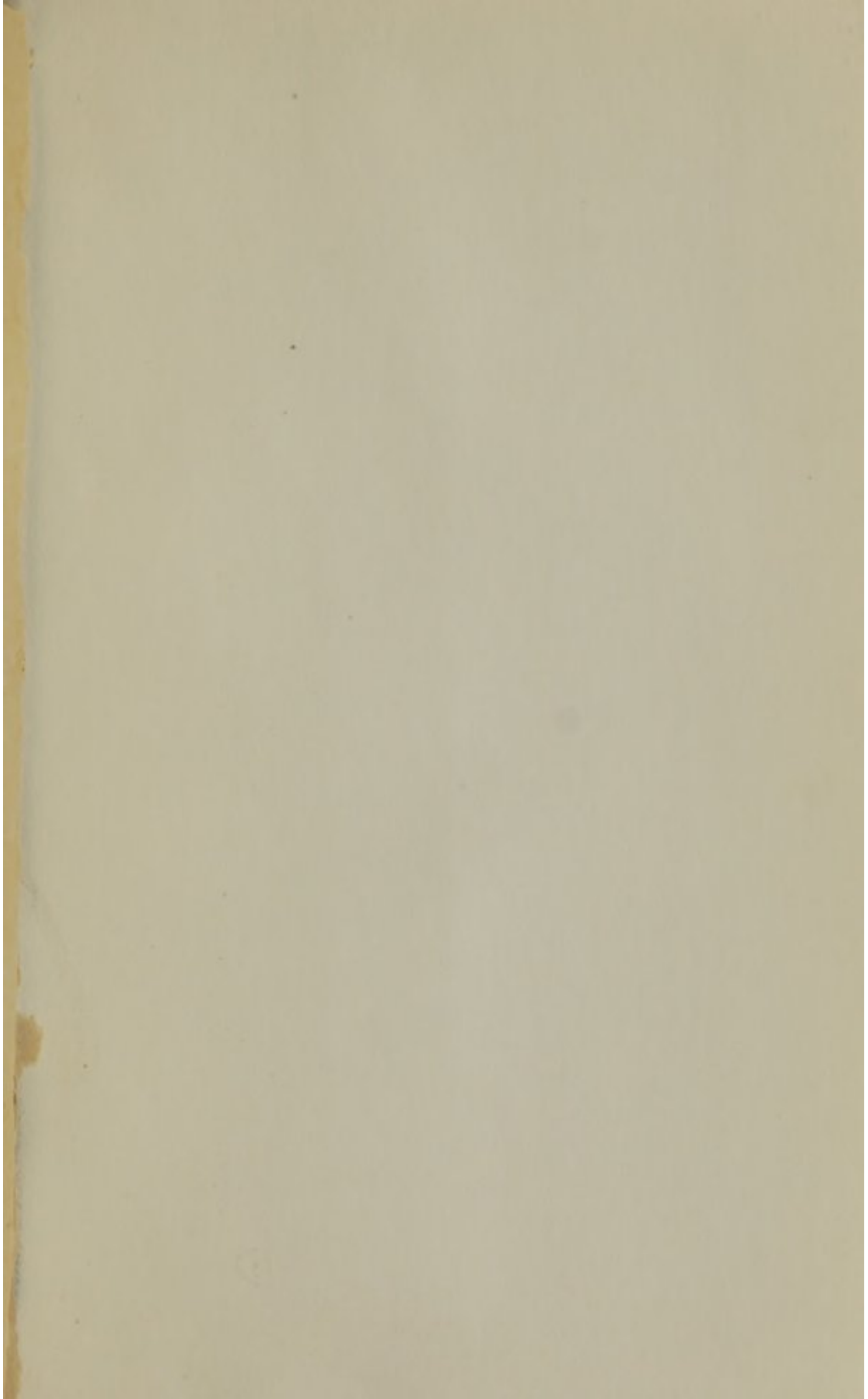
These observations entirely accord with my own experience, and fully corroborate the views and opinions heretofore expressed by me, as to the method of cure which should be adopted--with the *very material exception*, however, that I would not check the diarrhœa too suddenly, so as to produce a dangerous, and perhaps fatal, reaction. The constituent elements of the Balsam of Moscatello, combined with the necessary action of the powders prescribed by me, will effec-

tually preclude the dangers to be apprehended from the hasty mode of treatment suggested by the learned gentleman from whose letter I have quoted.

THE END.

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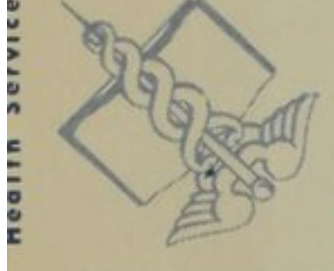
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