

**Cholera : its cause and infallible cure : and on epidemics in general / by J.M. Honigberger. Second pamphlet.**

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# CHOLERA

ITS CAUSE AND INFALLIBLE CURE

AND

ON EPIDEMICS IN GENERAL

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BY

J. M. HONIGBERGER

LATE PHYSICIAN TO THE COURT OF LAHORE

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PRICE ONE RUPEE

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SECOND PAMPHLET.

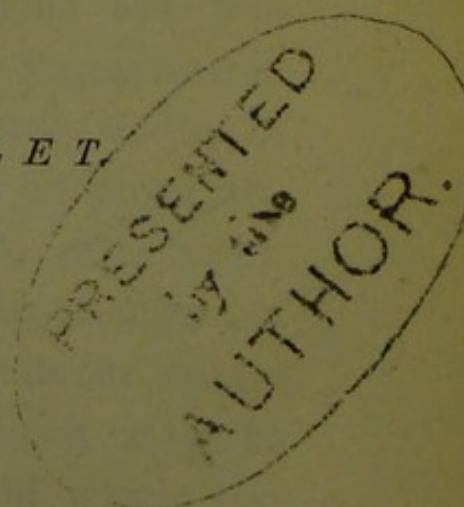
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1858.



MOTTO.

The greater the difficulty, the more glory is there in surmounting it.  
Skilful pilots gain their reputation from storms and tempests!



## TO THE PUBLIC OF INDIA.

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A FORTNIGHT more it will be a year, since I had the pleasure to publish my first pamphlet on Cholera and the Epidemics ; then I hoped that the committee of medical men, appointed by Government for the investigation, examination, and report on the nature of my discovery, soon would agree that my statement about the specific virtue of quassite inoculation was quite correct ; but the committee unwilling either to speak in my favor or against my remedy, they told to Government 1st, that my remedy was perfectly innocuous, and 2dly, that a decisive opinion about the efficacy of the same could be given only with time, after having it tried in different epidemics, so that no mistake may be there. Government accordingly gave me the following orders—No. 2019, Council Chamber, the 30th September, 1857:—"The Right Hon'ble the Governor General in Council entirely acquiesces in the views expressed by the committee, and is of opinion that it must rest with you to prove the efficacy of your discovery by actual experiment. His Lordship in Council will direct the members of the committee to watch and report upon the results of your treatment in any cases which may be brought to you for treatment, and of which you may give timely notice." I was very glad to hear this and fully agreed to this proposal, but I am sorry to say nothing has been done, as Drs. Eatwell and Goodeve pretended that they had no time to



run after my patients, and strange to say, in Calcutta no other two physicians could be had even by Government's order, for the investigation of such a highly interesting subject as to ascertain for the blessing of humanity, if my remedy really cures cholera or not.

The *Hurkaru* of the 12th June 1857 said, "We learn that Lord Canning has determined to put to a fair and definite test the pretensions of Dr. Honigberger to the discovery of a certain remedy for cholera. Many months ago Dr. H. eagerly solicited such a test, but though various apparent opportunities have been afforded him of proving the efficacy of his newly discovered mode of treatment, they have all been clogged with circumstances which from the first he declared unfavorable to him. A ward in one of the Hospitals was assigned him, in which all cholera cases that came in were made over to his care ; but here he had to complain of neglect in the Hospital's assistants, who, having learned to look upon him as simply a quack, seemed to care little about attention in his absence to his orders ; whereas, with his mode of cure, the most unremitting watchfulness is indispensable. But it is beyond question, that by his system Dr. H. has really been most successful, in dozens of most virulent cases. It seems to be established too, by statistics, which there can be no gainsaying (for every case has been, and may again be verified) that his recoveries bear a proportion of at least 19 to 20 of cases in which his treatment has been fairly ex-



hibited, and wholly uninterfered with, and in which no stimulant or other ordinary remedy had been used. Though he has been met with a good deal of jealous opposition on the part of the more rigidly orthodox of the profession, there is scarcely one of them who will not testify at least to the wonderful degree of success which has attended his practice. This has led Lord Canning to entertain the serious determination to give the thing a fair trial ; for if Dr. H. be correct when he declares he has discovered an almost infallible antidote to the principle of cholera, whatever that may be, its adoption and the results of it will mark the date of its publication as one of the greatest epochs of the age ; and the virtual annihilation of the disease will be a proud monument in perpetuation to all generations of the Government under whom India was blessed with a benefit so inestimable, &c. &c."

The present Government of India could really have had such a blessing, was it not hindered by a jealous medical faculty, who so obstinately opposed to give a fair trial to my system in my own hospital, which I opened by desire of some friends, who so gallantly came forward, proposing to have by subscription, a temporary cholera hospital opened in the native part of the town. I agreed to their proposal, and gave up my private practice, and volunteered my services gratis for a period of 3 to 4 months ; this I did partly as I have still my family up-country at Nynceetal, and thought to wait here for them ; partly as I thought Government and the



medical authorities would pay due attention to our institution, as I have given up my secret, to deal with me in a fair way according to my merits, to give me encouragement, in order to prove the truth of my statement; in this however I was greatly mistaken, as neither Government nor any medical authority has taken the least trouble about my doings: our weekly published reports in several papers were of no use. The two native doctors our Secretary had employed for the admission and dismissal of patients are not credited. Our committee anticipating this desired our Secretary to ask from Government one or two sub-assistant Surgeons, that he or they may give periodically reports to Government about our cures. Here I give a copy of the letter from Dr. Halleur to A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal: "Sir,—I am directed by the committee of the temporary cholera hospital to ask you the favor of submitting to his Honor the Lieut. Governor of Bengal, a copy of the resolutions of the public meetings in the Metcalfe Hall on the 19th and 20th ultimo, to state that the number of patients admitted in the hospital up to this date has been 102, under treatment 2.

"The committee is anxious that this new remedy should be tried as fairly as possible, and that due care should be taken to place the results beyond doubt. With this view the committee instructed me to request to move his Honor to order the location of one or two sub-assistant Surgeons in the



temporary cholera hospital for the purpose of submitting to the Government periodical reports of all cases treated there, and forwarding copies to the committee to enable them to direct their operations properly, &c." Five weeks afterwards we got the following reply from Government :—" No. 1218. From A. R. Young, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, to the Honorary Secretary to the Committee of the temporary cholera hospital. Fort William, the 2nd July, 1858. Sir,—I am directed by the Lieut. Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 27th May last, and in reply to inform you that the Director General of the Medical Department, to whom a reference was made, has reported that at present there are no sub-assistant Surgeons available for the purpose of being stationed at the cholera hospital, to watch and report upon the cases treated." On this the *Bengal Hurkaru*, July 16th, 1858, made the following remarks :—" It is quite possible at the present time, when so many troops are in the country and a paucity of subordinate medical officers exists, that two sub-assistant Surgeons—and that even one—could not be spared to remain at the cholera hospital. Still Government might have directed a medical officer to pay periodical visits, and forward reports." A friend of mine wrote me from up-country, "The secret is that the medical authorities with their narrow-mindedness are opposed to you, and as by routine Government must apply to them, on every subject relating to Medicine, they



have the power to negative every proposal to extend the knowledge of the cure, as also to instigate others to cry it down, but as you say, patience, by and bye, it will show itself in its true colors. I only wish an European field would open out, there justice would be done you, but here in this red-tape Government never."

To those who may have heard that I had a fair trial in the Chandney Hospital, where my system proved of no use, I have only to request them to read in the *Hurkaru* of the 4th August, 1858, what the reason of my failure was. At that epoch a former paper of the Metropolis, the *Morning Chronicle*, Dec. 30, 1856, predicted what was really the fact; it says—"We hear that Dr. Honigberger who professes to have discovered a method of curing cholera by inoculation with a counter-virus, supposing the disease to consist of a poison absorbed by the system, has been appointed to try his skill on cases admitted into the native hospital. The Doctor has now a fair field and no favor. There is no one but would wish him success as complete as he would himself desire, and we have only to hope that care should be taken to render the experiment as conclusive as possible, whether as regards the inability of his remedy or its worthlessness; we are aware of the objections that may be taken to this mode of testing a medical doctrine, and that medical men will be far from satisfied of its truth, even should all the instances in which it is declared to be applied turn out thorough



cures. But there is no other way of meeting the claims of the Doctor and of disposing of the solicitude of the public than that they should have a trial. There is a precedent in the permission some time since accorded to Dr. Esdaile to prosecute his mesmeric experiments at an hospital purposely instituted and maintained by the Government ; and it will be in the recollection of our readers that the medical men who were entrusted with the supervision of Dr. Esdaile's proceedings, although convinced that no other than his peculiar agency has been employed, failed to support him as they might have done either with the Government or the public. We may therefore infer that whatever impression the results of Dr. Honigberger's treatment of cholera at the native hospital may have upon the lay public, he must not look too much for congratulation from the body of his scientific brethren. Should it indeed appear that he has found the true secret of assailing the greatest foe that ever afflicted the human race, he may entitle himself to the gratitude, after he shall become insensible to all gratitude, of their generations for ever ; but on no account must he expect during his life-time his own profession to acknowledge his worth in any manner agreeable to himself. Who, after practising an art for 20 or 30 years, would like to be told that he had been all the while nothing but a quack and humbug ? Who would confess, after he had spent a great deal of time and trouble in attempting to guess at what was in other people's stomach and bones, that for



all his pains he was little better than a fool? Above all leaving self-delusion aside, who does not know his interest better than to forego one well-tryed means of getting money out of other people's pockets without putting them out of humour for another, untryed, uncertain at which others are better adepts, and to learn which he must unlearn all he has crammed himself with before, and go to school again? These are severe aspersions, not merited perhaps by the character for general benevolence which belong to the faculty, and for which it has been ever remarkable. But we have to turn to the history of any medical discovery and justify ourselves. The mass of medical practitioners are late in recognizing the value of any medical discovery and justify ourselves. Jenner was told by Lord Lansdowne that "he had conquered more in the field of science than Bonaparte had conquered in the field of battle," and yet, when it was proposed to grant him the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons, he was told to prepare himself for his examination by setting about to brush up his Greek and Latin. We do not write to discourage Dr. H., but we would caution him against entertaining sanguine hopes of any adequate reward for his remedy if it be demonstrated to be such. If he has not the magnanimity of science to support him, under obloquy and neglect, his lot will be miserable."

The same paper of the 27th November, 1856, gives the following account:—

"We can ourselves bear creditable testimony to



two cases which have recently occurred, where the faculty of the highest talent having failed in curing this disease, his treatment proved effectual. Two of Mr. Delanougerede's children had been attacked with cholera on the same day in its direst form, Drs. Vos and Watson attended on them with unremitting care, but their medicines proved ineffectual. The eldest, a sweet little girl of 9 years of age, fell a victim to the scourge; the other, a boy of 7 years, was also sinking in its last stage, and given up by these medical men. A friend recommended as a last resource to try Dr. H.'s treatment, which he had known to cure such diseases, when all others proved futile. The father who had never heard of him before, on hearing this, hastened to the medical man's house, and conveyed him to his own. Dr. H. felt the patient's tongue was still warm, and gave him every hope of recovery. He inoculated the child in two or three places, put some remedy in it, and before dawn the next day he was declared out of danger. Another case in which a young man of 18, who was given up by his medical adviser, met with the same result, &c."

As long as my remedy was a secret, Government, the medical faculty, and every one was desirous to know what it was; now, after its publication, it seems too simple to the enlightened mind of medical men, even in Europe some of the faculty pretend that "I cure cholera without inoculation, and without any remedy," but they are mistaken, and they have no knowledge of my system, an epidemic in



Europe is all that is required to show if I am right or my opponents.

Had the medical faculty of this metropolis paid due attention to my pamphlet of last year, and made a proper use of my remedy, I am sure that hundreds of European lives would have been saved here and in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, who since have fallen victims to this malady. As an example I may mention some cases, to show the perverse treatment of these physicians—the old routine what they call *lege artis* treatment; what they use in preference to the quassite inoculation. Captain Chapman, of the Ferry Steamer *Howrah*, came lately to my hospital at Neemtollah, and desired me to go immediately with him over to Howrah, as his wife was severely attacked with cholera, and so we went in all haste, but I am sorry to say we arrived too late, as she had just expired; what kind of treatment their house doctor had applied I don't know. Shortly after this there came during the night two gentlemen engineers from the Railway, and they conducted me to a young lady at Howrah, who just had breathed her last, and more sad was this consequence as she was in the family way, leaving behind to the afflicted husband a boy of 13 months old, her only child. Here they said, that their house doctor, a gentleman of first-rate education, treated her precisely in the same manner, as he had done a friend of theirs, a few days before in the same house; he gave both of them calomel every 10 minutes a dose to be washed down with



brandy and water. Now I would ask this doctor, who observing that his treatment failed in the first instance, why did he so obstinately continue the same plan with the poor lady, and if he still thinks to give calomel and brandy in cholera? I saw my pamphlet there on the table, a pity that they have made no use of it. How many of the guards at the mint, European soldiers, have fallen victims to this scourge? How many died in the fort and in the hospitals? In the *Phoenix*, 28th November, 1857, is the following letter from Raneegunge: "Our loss from cholera here for the last three days has been about four European soldiers each day, and our hospitals are now almost filled with sick. Do you not think this is a fine opportunity for our doctors to try Dr. Honigberger's remedy?"

"I find from enquiry that not one of my doctor friends here has used it, nor do they feel induced to do so. Is it to be the old story of the dog and his vomit again?"

A certain English practitioner of the Mofussil being desirous to treat his patients according to my system, wrote to the Medical Board, asking for their permission to do so. Decidedly not! was their negative answer.

Some days ago I received a letter from an Hungarian, serving in the Yeomanry Cavalry; he was sent up by land together with some European soldiers of the 73rd Regiment; he tells me that he saved the lives of two soldiers with my remedy, and as the third was attacked, the doctor of the



regiment asked for his medicine, which he never gave back, excusing himself that his servant from negligence broke the phial. I think this is sufficient to show how these doctors in a body are determined not to use my remedy, rather to sacrifice the lives of their patients by treating them *secundum artem*, than to consent that the honor for the discovery of such a blessing should be conferred upon a foreigner. But by doing so they never can annihilate the effects of a remedy, and to judge from the sale of phials of quassia tincture here principally amongst natives, in the Mofussil and up-country, shows that it is used very much. Even boys inoculating in these native quarters poor people for one or two annas, often with success ; while our learned physicians take the fee of a gold mohur, and with their improper use of brandy, camphor, laudanum, calomel, ammonia, moschus, (musk) ether, &c. do more harm than good.

I trust a few instances, as example, may be acceptable to the public, showing that particular persons, not medical men, who took an interest in my system, perfectly succeeded in curing cholera, and why should not medical men, if they would, better as others succeed ?

*Beerbhoom*, 1st March, 1858.—Sir,—You have been the instrument in the hand of the Providence for the salvation of mankind from that dreadful scourge the cholera. My youngest child, a boy of about three years of age, was seized with that disease in its worst form at 1 P. M. on Saturday last. I lost no time in giving trial to your remedy in the man-



ner prescribed by you. As I saw several hours after the first application the purging and vomitting continue, I caused a second incision, which acted like the electric shock and brought the patient soon round. He is all right again as if nothing had happened. I took care not to administer any of the forbidden stimulants, but gave the child freely to drink soda and cold water to replenish the drainage the system had undergone, &c.

Your humble servant,

HURRY CHURN GHOSE,

*Head Clerk, Collector's Office.*

*Goomtah, Beerbhoom, 16th March, 1858.*—My Dear Sir,—On my arrival here I found the cholera raging dreadfully, so I was determined to try your valuable cholera tincture.—Out of 60 cases only 4 died. I will thank you to send me four bottles more, &c.

Yours obediently,

H. WILSON.

*Dacca, 9th May, 1858.*—My Dear Sir,—I am glad to inform you of my safe arrival here ; during my passage up I had three cases of cholera amongst servants on board, all which, I feel happy to say, yielded completely to your course of treatment, particulars of which I shall send you in a few days, &c.

Yours truly,

N. P. POGOSE.

*Nuddea District, Rotonpur, May 3rd, 1858.*—Dear Sir,—I have the pleasure to inform you that



your specific for cholera has proved most effectual in nine cases, not one has failed. I congratulate you on the acquisition of such an invaluable easy remedy. I beg you to send me another phial, &c.

Yours truly,

F. SCHURR.

This Reverend Gentleman is well-known in Calcutta, and such a document is of the greatest value and credited by the public, if the medical faculty will know nothing about.

*Rajmehal*, 8th August, 1858. Dear Sir,—Cholera is very prevalent here, we have saved many through the blessing of the Almighty father, but with the assistance of your tincture quassia. I am happy to inform you that more than 80 out of 100 have been cured through the hands of our unprofessional men, &c.

Yours most obediently,

BHOLA DAS MUKERJIE,

*Acct. of the Asst. Comr's. Office.*

In the *Hurkaru* of the 16th April, 1858, was the following letter published :—

“ A young lady of about 19 years age was seized with premonitory symptoms of cholera during the day. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon these symptoms assumed the form of cholera : medical aid was called in, and from that time till 11½ o'clock at night the symptoms increased, in spite of the active treatment of two physicians, and at that hour the patient was in imminent danger. Collapse was fast setting in, the disease was raging in all its fury, attended



with cold extremities, insatiable thirst, difficulty of breathing, restlessness and spasms. Finding that the treatment of the regular physicians was producing no effect whatever, and that the patient was sinking fast, it was thought advisable to try what Dr. Honigberger might accomplish. On his arrival the Doctor's first care was to find a part where the presence of warmth indicated that the blood was still circulating ; and feeling up the arm he rested at the shoulder, and made his first incision along the shoulder blade. He dipped his lancet into the essence of quassine and made an incision of the length of about 4 inches just sufficiently deep to divide the cuticle ; the blood from the wound, however, was thick and appeared tardily. He then poured a few drops of quassine over the wound, and as they trickled down he gathered them up with the lancet and put them back into the incision, and thus saturated the wound. Unsatiated violent thirst no longer irritated the patient, for she was allowed to drink iced water freely. The symptoms gradually abated, and at 2 o'clock in the morning, that is about 3 hours after the incision, the patient was greatly revived, talked composedly of her past sufferings, and hopefully of the recovery. But this change was not permanent. In a short time the return of all the worst symptoms showed that the disorder had taken too firm a hold on the system to be easily dislodged. But Dr. H. confident in his treatment persevered with caution, firmness and determination.



In spite of spasms and the other ordinary symptoms which increased to a frightful extent, and in spite of approaching collapse, cold water was freely allowed to the patient, and at 4 o'clock in the morning it became necessary to inoculate her a second time, which was done across the arm. On this the violence of the disorder seemed to abate, but the doctor had still to contend with collapse followed by congestion, and a variety of other serious consequences of the malady, each of which, if misunderstood, or neglected, or wrongly dealt with, would in all probability have proved fatal. Six hours after the second inoculation, a third was deemed necessary, and then came blisters, and chloroform, and ice and every thing that ingenuity and skill could suggest to arrest and overcome the disease and relieve the patient. For three days life seemed to hang on a thread ; and on the fourth when all around feared the worst owing to the oppression and exhaustion with which the patient was struggling, Dr. H. declared her out of present and immediate danger, and she has since then been gradually advancing towards complete recovery, &c.

Yours faithfully,

Δ.

In the *Hurkaru* of the 31st July, 1858, appeared the following article :—

*To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru.*

SIR,—Of late I have read with much interest certain notices about the Doctor's "Cholera cure"



in the newspapers. Some of these in the shape of anonymous letters have animadverted very uncharitably on his "Specific," others again though advocating his principles of treatment, have got fiery, and thus became partisans. My object in addressing you this note is to do the old man simple justice, which, though late in the day, may yet, I hope, be of use to him in adding one more to the many powerful testimonies he has already of the valuable properties of his cure. To me individually the success of his remedy has proved of inestimable benefit, inasmuch as in July, 1857, when I had an attack of what people called "cholera," but I am not sure whether the "*profession*" would call it so, he administered to me, and in about 20 minutes from the time of inoculation I was perfectly well, all *cramps, thirst, pains, &c.* disappeared. I have seen cholera patients, and if my opinion would suffice, I think it was that deadly sickness with which I was attacked. But, however, so convinced had I been of the efficacy of his cure, that I was not a little doubtful of it, and I had occasion when a servant of mine was attacked, still further and fully to rely on it. As in this case the "*profession*" were consulted, the man (his name was *Torab*) was attacked on a Saturday evening; his friends were with him in the stable, giving him some medicine out of an earthen bottle, and fomenting his body with *heated sand*. I happened to go there on Sunday morning; and on enquiry, I was told of the case of the



poor fellow, and of the remedies prescribed by the "Chandney Hospital" Sahibs. The restless and miserable state of the poor creature was too great to be passed over. His eyes were sunk in dreadfully, his face and hands were pale, his nails blue, and he appeared to me to be in the last stage of life. I ordered him to be removed to the hospital at once. His brother took him again to the Chandney hospital. Here he was told that it was too late, and to take him home and give him everything to eat. I was informed of this. I lost no time in sending for Dr. H. (does he remember the house with a large mast tree ?) He came. He inoculated him on the back ; he examined the blood with a bit of glass ; he inoculated him again a little above the hips ; he again examined the blood, and pronounced the patient not altogether gone. He ordered tea. He went away, it was about 10 o'clock. He returned at 2 P. M. to find his patient sitting up. The man was ultimately cured ! Was this not a sure and certain cure, and if it was not what is ?

In conclusion I would advise Dr. H. not to listen to the brayings of anonymous scribblers, but go on steadfastly in the work of eradicating this dreadful scourge from this the place of its birth. He once most eloquently said, that cholera sprang from the banks of the Ganges, and it was on these very banks that the most certain and effectual check to its spread was offered. Truly if every individual cure that he has wrought was but in



justice to him published, it would counterbalance by, I am sure, 1 to 20 of the deaths under his treatment. But as all inventions and discoveries have their friends and foes, he must not be annoyed if he has his. For it is only from the flames of controversy that truth can be gained. Let those then who are opposed to his "*specific*" cry it down, but he can work on. Time will remove the veil of prejudice and shop-rivalry from the eyes of his enemies, and the fact of his sure and certain cure will rise triumphant, like a giant, conquering and to conquer. To know that he has enemies, should be his greatest joy. A man who has none, is seldom good for any thing. He is made of that kind of material that is easily worked, that every one tries a hand at it. A sterling character is always sure to have enemies. They are as necessary to him as fresh air. They keep him alive and active. They are sparks, which if you do not blow, go out of themselves. Let this be his own feelings while endeavouring to live down the scandal of those who are bitter against him. If he stops to dispute he does only as they desire, and opens the way for more abuse. Let the poor fellows talk. There will be a reaction if he but performs his duty ; as hundreds who are now averse to his cure, will flock to him and acknowledge their errors.

FIAT JUSTITIA.

Many of my friends in India will be sorry to hear, that I have taken my passage to England in



next Steamer *Nubia*, which is to leave this on the 23rd instant. The two native Doctors, graduates of the Medical College of Bengal, Kissory Mohun Chunder of Aheerietola Street, and Radha Prosad Sett of Brindabun Bysack's Street, intend to open a Dispensary for continuing to provide the public with my cholera tincture, and if their services be required I can recommend them, as they have visited daily our hospital during the four months of its existence, and they have learnt how I treat the malady.

Yours obediently,

J. M. H.

*Calcutta, 15th August, 1858.*



## THE CURE OF CHOLERA, ETC.

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IN reference to my theory, the virulent cholera infusoria which together with the atmospheric air enter the system through the lungs, and by contamination propagate the disease ; there are many persons who cannot and will not believe it until they see them with their eyes, this being the excuse that they will not even use the remedy I recommend. The microscopes we have in Calcutta are insufficient for the detection of these exceedingly minute organic beings ; they are so fine, like the air we breathe, but I still entertain sanguine hopes that in Europe in time they will succeed to find them out. Happily that the theory has nothing to do with the cure, the principal object is to cure cholera, whatever the theory may be. It cannot be denied that inoculation of quassia has a decided, specific effect on cholera, and I have not yet seen a single case amongst upwards of 1,500 patients, where this remedy has been properly inoculated in the beginning of the malady, say between the first three to six hours, and no mischief has been done besides, that it has not effected a cure, often between one to three hours. Naturally if the inoculation has been performed later, say between six to twelve hours, the effect of the remedy appears also later, after six to twelve hours, and we must wait patiently and refrain from doing any mischief. Unexperienced people think that the inoculated remedy has no effect, when they see that vomitings and purgings continue, and the pulse is fast sinking. Nothing



is more delusive in cholera than the pulse, so that we cannot rely on. I often remarked that in severe complicated cases, where the inoculation has been performed after the twelve hours of the very beginning of the malady, and many improper medicines had been given, that the pulse ceases altogether at the wrists, the extremities are cold, and a state of collapse still by a proper treatment reaction takes place, sooner or later, and the patient ultimately recovers. I cannot enough recommend to every person cautiously to abstain from grog, brandy, gin, and other spirituous drinks, as also from camphor, in every cholera case, as I have seen so many fatal cases, which decidedly were the consequence of such stimulants, even if the patient is accustomed to the spirituous liquors, they don't agree with every cholera case; therefore it is quite necessary for every cholera patient to abstain from them at least for the first twenty-four hours. Toast water, soda water, lemonades, weak tea with or without some milk and sugar, or with a yolk of an egg instead of milk, cold or iced-water, *sherbets* of capillaire, of raspberry or of vinegar, effervescing cooling draughts, as Seidlitz-powders, fresh buttermilk, &c. may be given freely, and not to use any internal remedy in the beginning of the malady, as they render the case severe. I repeat that cholera has no other remedy in all its stages than the quassite inoculation, after which rest is required when possible in a dark and airy room, and to keep only two or three persons there to attend on the patient, and they must be



quiet, without making any noise ; if the patient can have a nap, that will strengthen him much, and when he feels a longing for food, not before, sago with some sugar should be given. It is of no use to feed a patient who has no appetite, it will do him more harm than good ; and on no account port wine should be given with the sago, as to strengthen him, it would strengthen only his malady ; but when all symptoms of cholera have vanished and weakness remains, then is the proper time for port wine, jellies and some substantial food.

Cholera patients usually require fanning and feel more comfortable when they are fanned, and there is no harm when it is only moderately done.

In every severe case the long hairs of the head should be cut off, or shaved, partly to keep back the abundance of nourishment they require, with which they are provided with through their roots, partly to ensure a better effect of the cold applications on the head.

Quassite inoculation is not only in cholera a specific, but in *confluent small-pox* too. A friend of mine assured me, that my quassia tincture proved most effectual in several of his villages, where he had sent some phials of it, not only in cholera, but also in the confluent kind of small-pox. Besides the application of the tincture to the crusts or poxes, I would recommend for a trial a wash or bath all over the body with a weak decoction of quassia ; the same could be tried in other acute or



chronic skin diseases, as in measles, scarlatina, &c., even in itch and ringworms it may be useful.

Quassite inoculation is not only as a *curative* remedy in cholera, but also as a *preventive* to be recommended, since last year I have inoculated upwards of a thousand healthy persons here, as also in the suburbs and several villages of Calcutta, and I have heard only of two cases where it failed ; the first had the attack the very day of inoculation and recovered without any medicine ; the second however, a female at Kalighat, was attacked three days after the inoculation, and being poor people living in a hut who are unable to pay the Doctor's fee, had no medicine, they said, and she fell a victim to the scourge ; in both these cases a simple quassia tincture recently prepared was inoculated, perhaps not sufficiently strong to counteract the virulent virus already present in the system. I have inoculated a great many at Bhowanipore and Kidderpore, as also here in Neemtollah Street, where several hundred boys of Dr. Duff's school came over to our hospital for the inoculation, and I have not heard that any one of them had ever had cholera, and during this last four months the epidemic was very prevalent in those quarters.

The most striking effect however was that of the village *Ariadah*, about eight miles north of Calcutta, situated between the river and the grand trunk road. The letter I received from there was



published in the *Phænix* of 11th December last, and is as follows :—

“ DEAR DOCTOR HONIGBERGER,

“ You had been so kind as to come to our village *Ariadah* (near Cox’s bungalow) Sunday the 15th ultimo, and there to inoculate with your tincture of quassia, besides four patients suffering severely from cholera, about two hundred persons in good health, as a preservative for the epidemic, how we are glad to state, that those four sick ones recovered (the lady however died afterwards from fever in child-bed) and none of those two hundred inoculated persons had been attacked by cholera ; four persons not inoculated had since been attacked, but they were cured with the same remedy you left us by Baboo Muttiloll Banerjee, so we trust in God the epidemic has ceased since that very day you favoured us with your visit, as we had before every day one to four deaths of cholera, and not one since you were here.

We are, Sir, your most obedt. servants,

MOTILOLL BANERJEE,

OMBIKA CHURN MITTER,

and SHAMA CHURN MITTER.”

*Calcutta, Decem- }*  
*ber 10, 1857. }*

Now who will believe that neither the Government nor the medical faculty of Calcutta have taken any trouble to enquire and ascertain the



truth of such a highly important fact, and not to have introduced the same in their army. I am sure, when they hear from Europe, that my system has been approved there as most effective, they must adopt it.

The composition I used in *Ariadah* was quassia powder one drachm, seeds of *xanthoxylum*, coarsely powdered, fifteen grains to one ounce of eau-de-cologne, kept for a few days well corked in the sun-rays occasionally shaken. The seeds of *xanthoxylum* can be had here in the bazar at the Mohamedan druggists, they call them *tejbal ke bij*, up-country *kebaba khandeh*. In preference to the eau-de-cologne, which seldom can be had genuine, I use now an absolute alcohol.

Having observed that the simple quassia tincture, when inoculated to delicate children, disposed to convulsions, in five per cent cases have caused lethal convulsions, I think the addition of these aromatic bitter seeds of *xanthoxylum* are likely to be of use to prevent them. Those convulsions were exacerbating in short intervals, and were similar to epileptic fits, with salivation, grinding of the teeth, spasmodic contractions of the hands, &c. To corroborate the statement of the effects of quassia on the brain I give as an illustration my own case, the attack of cholera I lately had.

In my former pamphlet I stated that I had a slight attack of cholera on the first of April, 1857,



from which I got rid very soon by a timely inoculation of my remedy ; not so, however, it was with this my second attack, where I inoculated myself rather too late, and had to suffer the consequence of it. It was on the 28th of June last at midnight, that I was seized with severe purgings, at 4 A. M. I opened with a lancet a pustule I had on my left hand and applied there some tincture of quassia, observing however that the rice-watery motions continued unabated in short intervals, perhaps upwards of eighty times I had been to stool, without any vomitings, at 8 o'clock A. M. feeling myself exceedingly weak, so that I scarcely could get up from bed, I thought it necessary to have myself properly inoculated, this I did with my left hand with the side of the lancet, by giving a scratch across my right lower arm, so that some blood oozed out, where I applied some of the tinctura quassiæ ; it was only in the afternoon that reaction took place, the motions began to be less. At 2 P. M. Doctor Halleur came accompanied by Drs. Bourne and Waller (the former from the firm of Bathgate and Co., the latter from the Steamer *Nubia*). I was indeed very glad that these two gentlemen doctors had come with Dr. Halleur, not so much for their medical advise, as I rely fully on my remedy, but that they may say what they have seen, as malicious people even now will not believe that I had a severe attack. Dr. Halleur



finding me very exhausted persisted to have me inoculated a second time, and I allowed him to do so ; he made a severe incision on the back of my left shoulder, where he freely applied the quassia tincture. One hour after this second inoculation, which I think was not required, as the first had taken effect, a severe congestion to the head began, my face was burning and pain all over my head, so that I was obliged to have a lump of ice in a napkin constantly applying it with my own hands to my face and to the head from the evening till three o'clock A. M., when I fell asleep and awoke at six perfectly free from pains and from cholera too ; during the sleepless night I remembered those children, who died of convulsions, after the inoculation and to avoid similar instances, thought that some addition to quassia as those seeds of *xanthoxylum* are quite necessary. In the course of my malady, at about noon time I felt some heaviness in my stomach, so I tried by means of my fingers to bring up, and succeeded to evacuate some bitter and slimy stuff, which gave me some relief, so I repeated the operation three times with success ; nevertheless I began to be short-breathed, so that I was obliged to apply some mustard poultices ; I applied two, one on each side of the chest, which did me good. To quench my thirst I drank alternately soda-water, iced-water and once *sherbet* of vinegar. The secretion of



urine had ceased in the morning of the 29th, and re-appeared on the evening of the 30th. A remarkable symptom was the sounding noise in both of my ears, only when I sat up in bed in an erect position, as soon as I inclined a little forwards or lying down it disappeared. It was a sounding like a mill in my head, and early in the morning of the 29th my head perspired very profusely, so that my hair was quite wet. A similar noise of less degree I had in one of my ears on my first attack in April. It was about one month before I got this last attack that I felt myself unwell ; as flatulency, loss of appetite, prickly heat with an external burning, pricking and scratching ; eight or ten days before the attack, I observed a small pimple on my left hand, this was increasing to the size of a pea, and formed in a regular pustule, red inflamed and very painful by touching it ; on the very day the malady broke out, in its centre was visible the accumulated matter, what surgeons call *punctum suppurationis*. As this pustule was situated on one of the principal veins on the hand, it shows that the blood was really corrupt, most probably contaminated by the choleraic virus, and that nature's healing force endeavoured to throw out these impurities of the blood. I give a sketch of it fig. III. of the plate. On my little finger is the galvanic ring which I use to wear for many years, as mentioned in my former pamphlet. As I felt



exceedingly weak on the 30th, the day after I had the cholera, I took the following tonic : sulphate of quinine one grain to water three ounces and one drop of sulphuric acid mixed, every hour a tea spoonful which gave me some appetite. On the first day I took only sago with sugar and a few drops of rose-water ; the second day however I had chicken broth, beef-tea, toast, coffee with milk, tea, &c., and on the third day I had jellies and more substantial food, and was able to visit some other patients. The convalescence after inoculation is regularly very short of a few days only to severe cases.

The severe attack I had caused the opponents to my system to spread prematurely my death, which was announced, to the regret of some of my friends, in one of the newspapers. Had I failed to cure myself, then it would have been at an end with the quassia inoculation ; having however succeeded for the second time to cure myself with my remedy, I think every reasonable person should abstain from contradicting me.

In my former pamphlet I stated that "no use of any kind of medicine should be made, neither before nor after the inoculation ; blisters and mustard poultices, so much abused in cholera, are horrid things in reality, they only irritate and increase the pains and sufferings of the poor patients, &c." Nevertheless I used them even in my own case. When I said so it was



that they should not be used so indiscriminately in the beginning of the malady, where the inoculation is quite sufficient to effect a cure. Of course in the progress of the malady, and in the last stage of the same, we may use blisters and poultices, even proper internal remedies besides the inoculation. It is often the case, that the beginning of cholera is mistaken for indigestion, and accordingly stomachics are given ; even learned doctors seldom call the malady in its beginning cholera, in spite of the rice-watery motions, vomitings and cramps ; when not collapse and retention of urine present they doubt that it is a case of cholera ; this causes the mischief, they give brandy, stomachics, stimulants, &c. and the malady increases from bad to worse. As quassite inoculation never does any harm in such doubtful cases, even by indigestion, it should be used in preference to all other remedies.

In the beginning of cholera one inoculation is quite sufficient to restore the patient to health. In the progress of the malady, however, a second, third, and fourth may be required. The length and depth of the incision may be regulated according to the severity of the case. Many persons do not understand how and where to make the incision. I have seen some apply the quassia tincture with the point of a lancet by puncturing the skin similar to vaccination, but that will not do ; some drops must be applied to a wounded surface. Therefore I



thought it proper to give with this pamphlet a lithographic sketch. I usually begin the first inoculation on the left arm, as presented fig. I. In cases where this is not sufficient or ineffectual, after six to twelve hours I make a second incision on the back, namely, in the shoulder blade of the opposite right side as presented fig. II. Should however the arm of the patient be cold, I begin to make the first incision on the back, and then the second on the arm ; the third and fourth I make on the calves. A piece of rag wetted with the tinctura quassiae should be applied to the wound, and bandaged. The instrument I use for incisions is a bistoury, that is a surgical knife or scalpel, as presented fig. IV. The incision, however, can be made also, not with the point but with the side of a lancet, or with a good pen-knife ; the instrument, whatever it may be, should be dipped in the phial of the tincture, afterwards a few drops to be dropped in the wound, and as they trickle down they must be gathered up with the instrument and put back into the incision, and thus saturate the wound, over which a piece of rag impregnated with a few drops of the tincture which may be applied, and fastened with the bandage fig. VI., beginning with the end *a* to wind up, then crossing or turning one of the ends *b*, in an opposite direction, and to make the node in the inner side.

One of the most troublesome symptoms in chole-



ra, is the internal burning heat, which require the continued fanning; this arises in all probability from the decomposed, thick, tarry blood, unfit for circulation; after a great deal of trial of several medicines I found that lapis pumicis (pumice stone\*) is more effective than calomel or any other known remedy to remove this complaint. I give it after the inoculation in every serious cholera case hourly, in doses of five to ten grains, finely triturated with equal parts of sugar, one drop of cajaput oil and some mucilage of acacia-gomme to make it in a kind of bole or pills as preferred, to be kept on the tongue till they dissolve. Many inexperienced people may laugh at such a strange remedy which is of no use in medicine in any part of the world, I believe, still

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\* Pumice stone is a spongy, vitreous-looking mineral, consisting of fibres of a silky lustre, interlaced with each other in all directions. It floats upon water, is harsh to the touch, having in mass a spec. gr. 0.914, though brittle, it is hard enough to scratch glass and most metals. Its colour is usually grayish white, but it is sometimes bluish, greenish or brownish. It fuses without any addition at the blowpipe into a white enamel. According to Klaproth, it is composed of silica 77.5; alumina 17.5; oxide of iron two; potassa and soda three; in 100 parts. The acids have hardly any action upon pumice stone. It is used for polishing ivory, wood, marble, metals, glass, &c as also skins and parchment. Pumice stone is usually reckoned to be a volcanic product, resulting probably from the action of fire upon obsidians. The chief localities of this mineral are the islands of Lipari, Ponza, Ischia, and Vulcano. It is also found in the neighbourhood of Andernach, upon the banks of the Rhine, in Teneriffe, Iceland, Avergne, &c. It is sometimes so spongy as to be of spec. gr. 0.37.



it has its effect, and those who will give it a trial, will thank me, I am sure. Pumice stone is nothing but a condensed froth of Vulcans, and it can be had here in the *Burra-bazar*, under the name *palisch patter*. Lithographers use it also in polishing their stones with it. How came I to find out the virtue of this mineral? Those who have my book the "Thirty-five years in the East" will find in vol. II. p. 148, that pumice stone was effectual in lethargy with an internal burning sensation, and in the advanced stage of cholera we find the congestion to the brain, a kind of lethargic drowsiness, and most of the patients complain of the sensation of burning heat, and by trial I found that pumice stone really gives relief.

Another very bad symptom of cholera are those involuntary watery motions, which take away the last vital forces of the patient. The best remedy I have found to check these is the tincture of *Garcinia Mangostana*, which in doses of five to ten drops in any vehicle must be given every quarter of an hour, until amelioration is visible, then the same may be continued in hourly—three hourly—six hourly doses for some time, till all is right. I have given with advantage this tincture also in combinations with the above recommended pumice stone, omitting however the cajaput oil. This tincture prepared with alcohol and the pulverized rind of *Mangosteen* is one of the best remedies



against *Dysentery*, and it is a pity that it is not universally used by the faculty. They can be had here in the *Burra-bazar* by the Mahomedan druggists under the name of *Mangosteen*. This fruit is a product of the Indian Archipelago ; the rind of the fruit is thick, dark purple or brownish, very hard and contains some gamboge, as also an astringent vegetable principle, &c.

Painful cramps in the limbs cease after applying some ligatures as fast as possible to feet and arms, as represented fig. VII. and VIII., and by pushing them against some hard objects, and by holding them in a higher position than the body, and by pinching and rubbing them with dry hands ; by firm and steady extension of the cramped muscles. In the case of the leg is directed the heel to be held in one hand and the foot bent towards the shin ; in that of the arm the fingers are to be straightened, and the hand carried towards the *dorsum* of the wrist.

Cold extremities of cholera patients should be warmed by the application of hot water bottles, or warmed sand-bags, and not by rubbing them with dry ginger powder or with spirits of turpentine, as these are of no use.

Blisters I use in congestion of the head, sopor or drowsiness, with red eyes, &c., by such symptoms I apply a blister, or essence of cantharides to the nape of the neck. By abdominal pain and retention of urine the blister can be applied to the lower



part of the stomach, or better said to the abdomen or inguinal region. The effect of the blistering fly on the kidneys is often so astonishing, that the accumulated urine without any other internal remedy is easily discharged, when not it should be voided with a catheter. Spiritus etheris nitrici is also recommended for the purpose.

Mustard poultices have the advantage over blisters that they act quicker, and I use them to produce a counter-irritans by applying them whenever a pain in the chest, side, stomach or abdomen, I repeat them as often as necessary, and allow them only so long as they can be endured, without causing great pain. In the last stage of the malady it happens often that they produce no effect whatever on the paralyzed system, and that is a very bad omen ! just as bad as when there is no blood oozing from a deep incision.

Chloroform is a very useful and indispensable remedy when there is an excessive nervous irritation, even by raging patients, as I have seen after the abuse of camphor, like madness, struggling, it should be applied only by inhalation with proper precautions, not more than one drachm at once. I have not seen any good result from its internal use.

So is Chlorodyne not what I expected. I tried it in several severe cholera cases, it failed in every one. Those who wish to know its constituent parts are referred to the *Lancet* of the 23rd



January, 1858. In preference to this I would recommend the solution of arsenite of potassa, *i. e.* Fowler's solution, which I have used often with advantage in severe cholera cases.

The transfusion of blood has been lately recommended in Europe, in the state of collapse, and should be effected by taking the blood from an healthy person, and to have it transfused to the sick one.

Cold shower baths are very useful in cholera. Those patients who feel an internal burning heat and wish to bathe cold, as natives every day do, should be bathed several times a day, taking care to do it as quickly as possible, and to have them well dried afterwards. The cold water should be poured on the head of the patient, and allowed to run over the whole body.

Warm baths are recommended only for those who wish to have such, and for children when they are attacked by convulsions, in such cases ice should also be applied in intervals to their shaved heads.

Ice is an indispensable remedy in cholera, small bits of it swallowed is a good tonic, by absorbing the excessive morbid heat of the internal organs, it counteracts the nasty retchings and relieves hiccup. Iced water should be given moderately, as I have seen inflation of the stomach arising from its abuse, these however yield to hot fomentations. Ice applications to the head refreshes the brain and counteracts the excessive drowsiness.



Hiccup is not at all a bad symptom of cholera, still when it is troublesome it is often sufficient to squeeze the wrist, preferable that of the right hand with a piece of string, or with the forefinger and thumb of the other hand. In obstinate cases a mustard poultice applied to the chest is most effectual.

Castor oil is used by some physicians in cholera, and I have seen great damage arising from its use, so that I cannot recommend it under any circumstances, except after cholera, when there is a torpidity of the bowels ; even then I would recommend rather the clyster pump than internal purgatives.

Hospitals should have not only good ventilating apparatus and fresh air, but good water also, which is our second element after the atmospheric air we breathe.

There has been lately in the newspapers many articles published on the purification and preservation of water : 1st—To plunge a red-hot iron in the rainwater ; this is the method generally used by the Armenian inhabitants of the metropolis, who, from one rainy season to the other, preserve in such a manner their water, which by all means is superior to the nasty tank waters, impregnated with different heterogenous substances. 2nd—The filtration of the water through layers of sand and charcoal, a very recommendable manner, much in use.



I would add to these one more, namely, the purification of the water by means of the clearing-nut (*Strychnos nux potatorum*) what they call in the bazar *nirmulli*. Up-country washers use them very much to clear the water, by rubbing them round the inside of the pots, the impurities quickly fall to the bottom, the water is clarified, and rendered tasteless and wholesome. These nuts are very hard and destitute of poisonous qualities.

The manganese oxid in the proportion of  $1\frac{3}{4}$  to 250 of water has been recommended for the preservation of water, agitating the liquid once a fortnight.

In conclusion I have to apologise for this hurried pamphlet, and for the errors in phraseology, as my failing health does not permit to give the subject the attention it requires. This is merely for the public, and I hope that it may be easily understood and used by every one with success.



## REPORT OF THE CHOLERA HOSPITAL.

<i>From the 24th of April to the 22nd May, 1858.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	72
		Died .....	21
Admitted .....	93		93
<i>Report of the 29th May.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	12
		Died .....	2
Admitted .....	18	Under treatment .....	4
			18
<i>Report of the 5th June.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	15
		Died .....	1
Under treatment .....	4	Taken to the river side .....	1
Admitted .....	20	Under treatment .....	7
			24
<i>Report of the 12th June.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	15
		Died .....	3
Under treatment .....	7	Under treatment .....	8
Admitted .....	19		26
			26
<i>Report of the 26th June.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	37
		Died .....	2
Under treatment .....	8	Taken to the river side .....	4
Admitted .....	47	Under treatment .....	12
			55
<i>Report of the 3rd July.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	23
		Died .....	3
Under treatment .....	12	Taken to the river side .....	1
Admitted .....	23	Under treatment .....	8
			35
<i>Report of the 10th July.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	17
		Died .....	2
Under treatment .....	8	Under treatment .....	9
Admitted .....	20		28
			28
<i>Report of the 17th July.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	18
		Died .....	3
Under treatment .....	9	Under treatment .....	2
Admitted .....	14		23
			23



<i>Report of the 24th July.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	5
Under treatment .....	2	Died .....	1
Admitted .....	7	Under treatment .....	3
	9		9
<i>Report of the 31st July.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	3
Under treatment .....	3	Died .....	1
Admitted .....	5	Under treatment .....	4
	8		8
<i>Report of the 7th August.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	14
Under treatment .....	4	Under treatment .....	3
Admitted .....	13		17
	17		
<i>Report of the 14th August.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	12
Under treatment .....	3	Under treatment .....	3
Admitted .....	12		15
	15		
<i>Report of the 20th August.</i>		Cured and discharged .....	
Under treatment .....	3		
Admitted .....			

From these reports, it will be seen, that we had not more than about fourteen per cent. fatal cases, which is very reasonable, considering how the greater part of patients came in, partly conveyed on hackeries, even on a man's back, often in a hopeless and dying state; for the greater part of them tried at home different medicines, and when they have no more hopes of recovery, they send them often after twelve to twenty-four hours as a last resource to the hospital. It will be observed that in the last three weeks we had no deaths; this I think is partly owing to our own improved treatment, partly of the mildness of the epidemic. Those few who have been taken from the hospital to the river side, were such castes, who prefer to die on the banks of the Ganges; they tried first the cure, and when they saw no change in a few hours, they took them away to die according to their rites.

Doctor Halleur intends to publish a statistic table of our reports, which must be very interesting.



## EXPLANATION OF THE SKETCH.

Fig. I.—Shows the bloody incision on the left arm about 3 inches in length,  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch deep, where the remedy has been inoculated.

Fig. II.—Shows a bloodless incision on the right shoulder blade, the incision is about 4 inches in length and  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch deep; in the progress of the malady it is often the case that very little blood—or none at all—oozes from the wound. The knot of the bandage should be on the forder part, namely on the chest, not to incommode the patient.

Fig. III.—Presents my left hand, with the ripe pustule near the index; on the small finger is the galvanic ring I use to wear constantly.

Fig. IV.—Is the bistoury, or surgical knife, or scalpel for inoculation.

Fig. V.—Is a bandaged calve.

Fig. VI.—Is the bandage itself, about 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  yard in length, 2 inches in breadth, the  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{2}{3}$  rds open. First is applied the end *a* on the piece of rag over the wound, winding it up, one of the ends *b* must be turned backwards so as to cross the other end *b*, and the knot must be so as not to come over the wound, neither to incommode the patient.

Fig. VII. and VIII.—Shows the ligatures of some pieces of cloth or strings, which in cases of cramps in the limbs must be tied as tight as the patient can bear, and as soon as the cramps cease, they must be loosened or taken of altogether.



