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BY GEORGE HOWARD,

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COMMUNICATIONS.

FOR THE FREE PRESS.

ON CHOLERA.

Mr. Editor: The difference of opinion existing among physicians as to the best mode of treatment of this dreadful disease, and a desire to be prepared to treat it with success, should it make its appearance among us, induced the undersigned to address a letter on the subject to his Preceptor, Dr. SAMUEL K. JENNINGS, one of the most eminent practitioners of Baltimore. And conceiving that any thing on the subject of Cholera, emanating from so respectable a source, is at this time peculiarly interesting, I enclose you an extract from Dr. Jennings' reply; which I consider replete with sound pathological reasoning, and particularly deserving the attention of your professional readers. By giving it a place in your paper you will much oblige,

Yours, respectfully,

JNO. W. LEWIS, M. D.

EXTRACT.

"As to Cholera, a few remarks will be sufficient. With the exception of those individuals, who, from peculiarity of temperament or imprudence in diet, are particularly liable to those disturbances of the stomach and bowels, which mark Cholera patients, the disease, as it will prevail generally through the country, will not materially differ in its character and effects from bilious fever, whenever it becomes epidemic, and has a tendency to be in some degree malignant; and will require no important difference in the treatment, except that it must be more prompt and decisive. To take another view of the subject, I will say that Cholera is the termination of a bilious fever, peculiarly modified by the effect of a low temperature of the atmosphere.

"Before you will have received this, you will have learned, that the dreadful state of things which is denominated Cholera, is ushered in, almost invariably, with diarrhoea. This symptom, therefore, ought to be the signal of alarm. Whenever it appears, the disease has already progressed so far, that the life of the patient should be considered at stake, and instead of relying upon empor or any of the pernicious quackeries of the day, he should be informed of the necessity of employing the most energetic remedies, under the advice and direction of the best skill. In almost every instance, copious blood-letting and a liberal use of calomel are indispensable, if you would do justice to your patient or to the profession. In fact, such ought to be the treatment, immediately on the appearance of the first premonitory symptoms. By such procedure, the disease is disarmed of its power, and the life of the patient made secure. If, however, the case shall have progressed so far, that diarrhoea shall have occurred, then, after blood-letting, whenever it is at all admissible, the calomel should be administered in doses, varying in accordance to the necessities of the case, from 5 to 10, 15 or 20 grs. and repeated every second, third, fourth, or sixth hour; adding opium or morphia, as there may be occasion. The patient is never to be considered out of danger until the abdominal viscera shall have resumed their functions, and the natural and healthful secretions shall have been re-established. This being done, you have plain sailing. But it may be proper to add, that you may expect convalescence to advance with a pace

unusually slow, and that the patients generally must be sustained in the most careful manner, allowing them the lightest articles of nutriment, and forbidding stimulants and nearly every kind of solid food for the first few days.

"I omitted to state in the commencement of my remarks, that in this disease more than in any other that I have ever seen, the strictest attention is required to be paid to the patient's skin: You should therefore, apply external heat, friction with a pretty stiff brush, heating liniments, &c. but above all, keep a large blistered surface continually sore, until convalescence is fairly established. In each and every other particular, I feel perfectly free to say to you, follow your judgment according to the regular principles, in using the ordinary agents pertaining to the profession.

"By way of precaution for the safety of your friends and their families, advise them to have a strict regard to cleanliness, put on clothing more than ordinarily warm for the season, and keep fire in their houses. It will be important for the safety of the blacks, that masters and overseers be particular in seeing that their quarters are kept clean and warm, and every body ought to know, that a loose condition of the bowels, instead of being useful, as it may have heretofore proved to be, is now the harbinger of death.

"I will conclude with a few remarks of a speculative kind, for your amusement. The malaria, which is strictly the remote cause of the disease so often terminating in Cholera, I consider to be nearly related to that which produces bilious fever. It regards the same localities and ranges, it produces the same effect with the addition of the peculiarity of its termination in those patients which are said to die, or approximate to death by Cholera, and many cases which are called Cholera, &c. after the necessary evacuations, require to be treated with quinine. I have seen frequent instances of Choleric dysentery, in which not even the tenesmus would yield to any other remedy.

"Whether the atmosphere is made insalubrious because there is a deficient supply of electricity, or whether the rays of the sun are differently modified from what they usually are, it matters not, because we cannot mend it. But we know with certainty, that there has been a deficiency of caloric throughout the season. The malaria then, has been made more pernicious by the low temperature of the atmosphere. Malaria has gradually produced debility of the indirect kind, according to the general acceptance of the term in regard of the whole system, and in consequence of the low temperature of the atmosphere, the debility is made especially to prepare the skin most readily to fall into a collapsed state. The excitement of the blood-vessels of the skin becoming feeble and deficient, with a gradually continued increase of debility, the circulating fluids become gradually and permanently introverted, producing a corresponding distention and ultimate infraction of the blood-vessels of the abdominal viscera. As a necessary consequence, the blood-making organs become torpid, the blood itself is deteriorated, by which, those large portions of nervous productions of the great sympathetic, called ganglions are weakened, and not by any specific poison. This is a hasty sketch of the first grand impairment of the system.

"When the abdominal blood-vessels have been thus distended a sufficient length of time, they lose much of their natural tone and eventually the liver, together with the whole portal circle, are locked up. When this shall have occurred, the infraction accumulates rapidly, all the natural secretions cease, and the distended vessels seek a morbid relief by means of the discharges which constitute the diarrhoea. When the case has arriv-

ed at this stage unless decisively met, so as to arouse the liver to action and remove the distensions of the blood-vessels by a re-establishment of the natural secretions, the mucous membrane soon becomes fatally relaxed, giving out the rice-colored evacuations which are characteristic of Cholera. This brief review of the affection, whether true or false, affords a plausible explanation of the phenomena which accompany the dread disease which has received the appellation of Cholera; particularly of the collapse of the skin and the simultaneous discharge from the bowels. And if true, it obviously becomes the first concern of every physician to prevent, rather than wait to prove his skill in curing the disease. Yours, affectionately,

SAML. K. JENNINGS.

Dr. Jno. W. Lewis, Rocky Mount, N.C.

Appalling Mortality.—A committee appointed for the purpose in Philadelphia, have published a narrative report of the ravages of the Cholera in the Arch street prison of that city. The scenes of one day in that prison are represented to have been of unparalleled fearfulness in the history of disease and death. Before night, not less than *seventy* persons, who were living when the morning dawned, were consigned to the grave!—*Fay. Obs.*

☞ We published some time since, the case of a marriage of a Doctor S—, when in a state of collapse from Cholera, to Miss W—, that the lady might inherit his property. We are pleased to see it mentioned in the *Doylstown* (Pa.) Democrat, that the gentleman is now convalescent and stands a fair chance of living to enjoy in health the society of his bride.—*Newbern Sent.*

☞ The unfortunate Calvin Edson, is no longer a *Living Skeleton*. Dr. Scudder, of the American Museum, has received information of his death, at his residence in Randolph, Vermont. The mysterious cause of his excessive emaciation has, it is said, been at length solved. The disease of which he died, was *tabes mesenterica*, or tape worm. The worm is said to have been twelve or fourteen feet in length. If this be so, the mystery of the enormous appetite of the deceased is likewise solved.

The late Fire.—The Raleigh Register says: We announced in a hasty postscript to our last paper, that our unfortunate city had again been visited with a destructive fire. We then stated that it was generally believed to have been the result of accident, but we are pained to state that subsequent investigation justifies the conclusion that it was the act of an incendiary. Indeed, so general is this opinion now, that we scarcely know a dissenting voice. No circumstances have yet been developed, sufficiently strong to authorize the apprehension of any individual, and perhaps time alone may elucidate the mystery, in which at present, the matter is involved. It has been a subject of notoriety, that Mr. Smith, the gentleman in whose store the fire originated, was in the habit of keeping always by him, a considerable amount in money, and whoever perpetrated the atrocious villany, doubtless did it for the sake of plunder. There was in different parts of the store, at the time of the fire, about \$4000, in notes of various banks, all of which either perished in the flames, or fell into the hands of the incendiary.

As on all former occasions of fire in this city, the shade trees were found of essential benefit in protecting neighboring buildings. But for this protection, Mr. Rd. Smith's fine dwelling and a number of other houses would have been inevitably destroyed.

There was fortunately at the time, not a breath of air stirring, or the consequences must have been much more disas-

trous. We subjoin a statement showing the value of the property destroyed, and the respective owners. [From this statement it appears that Richard Smith lost in houses, goods, money, bonds, &c. about \$36,000. Andrew Henshaw, in money, deposited with Mr. Smith, \$500. Mr. Hardford, in ready made clothing, \$100, &c.]

Judge Mangum.—At a meeting of citizens at Hillsborough, resolutions were passed expressive of the confidence and esteem which they entertained in relation to the political course of the Judge during the late session of Congress, and requesting the honor of his company at a public dinner; which he declined, stating "that when he looked at the past history of Orange county and her public men, and the long and distinguished service of some of them in various public stations, and remember that it has never been our custom to greet them with similar demonstrations of public sentiment; every man of delicacy would readily comprehend the reasons that render a compliance on his part absolutely impossible. It is, (said he) an honor that should be reserved for great occasions and for illustrious services. And besides, I have so much respect for the plain, unostentatious and respectable habits of our people, that I am sure you will pardon me for saying, I doubt whether they would be improved by the introduction of a practice which, on ordinary occasions, I think, is more "honored in the breach than in the observance."

Fatal Accident.—The Rutherfordton Spectator says: We are informed by a correspondent, under date of McCannell's Store, Macon county, Sept. 2, that on the 30th ult. the people of that neighborhood were called on to witness a scene of the greatest distress in the sudden and melancholy death of Mr. Lamkin Farler. Several individuals were engaged in "deer driving," and as is usual each took his stand. Mr. Farler took his on one side of the Tuckasegee river, while Mr. John Dilliard, Jr. took his on the opposite side but some distance above. When the deer went into the river opposite Mr. D. Mr. F. left his stand and ran up the river to where the deer had first entered it. Mr. Dilliard in shooting at the deer, which was then swimming between himself and Mr. F. in the river, missed his aim and the shot struck Mr. Farler, who survived but a short time. Mr. F. was a respectable citizen of the neighborhood, and has left a widowed wife and four children to mourn his untimely fate.

Mr. Randolph.—The Charlottesville Advocate, of the 21st ult. observes:—From Charlotte county, we learn that Mr. Randolph's health is now better than it has been for many years—and that it is likely (should he consent to serve) that Capt. Richardson, the member elect for that county, will vacate his seat in the House of Delegates, in order that Mr. R. may be elected to that body. That Mr. R. will be a candidate for Congress next spring, we believe there is but little doubt.

☞ The Danville (Va.) Reporter, of the 29th ult. makes known a deficit of \$15,000 in the Agency of the Farmers' Bank of Virginia at that place. It adds: Mr. John Chew, the Agent, has been in such a situation since the discovery of the default, as to be unable to give any satisfactory information upon the subject. Further investigation will be made, when we shall be able to speak more definitively.

Amy Dardin.—It is stated in a Louisiana paper that the President had withheld his signature to the bill allowing pay for the renowned horse Romulus, and that the old lady will appear on the Washington course next winter, and run down another generation of Congress-men.