

THE CHOLERA.

It becomes our painful duty to announce to our readers that this disease has made its appearance in Quebec and Montreal, probably having been brought by emigrants from Ireland. It cannot be concealed that much alarm has been the consequence of this announcement to the north. In New-York city, Albany, Troy, and other places, preparations have been made to ward it off, and the excitement has been considerably allayed by the assurances of physicians who have seen the disease in Europe and Asia, that its ravages were not likely to exceed the average deaths by consumption. Dr. De Kay of N. York was attacked by the Cholera at Constantinople, and the treatment he underwent, that of stimulating, he says was almost universally successful.

In order to give our readers as full and ample an account of the origin and progress of the disease as our limits permit, we begin with the first announcement; and shall continue from day to day to add in as succinct a manner as possible, all the details, requesting all whose fears are excited, to remain quiet, to refrain from strong drink, keep the body clean and the mind free from anxiety. We do not know by any means that it will come here—it may be confined to its present location, and judging from its progress in other countries, it is quite as likely to appear in Charleston or New Orleans first, as at Philadelphia. At all events, we shall have the best experience of the Canada physicians, and may rely on the skill and promptitude of our faculty as surpassed by none in the world.

The first account of its appearance in Quebec was received here on Saturday last, after our paper was distributed. It appears that a vessel arrived at the quarantine ground, called the Carriacks, from Dublin; that there were on board one hundred and thirty three passengers, all of whom were landed and placed in the emigrant shed. They were there visited by the board of Health, and pronounced healthy on the 8th inst. On the 9th, the Quebec Mercury announced eight cases had occurred, which were pronounced by eleven of the faculty to have all the symptoms of spasmodic cholera. Three deaths occurred previous to noon on that day, and there were two others whose lives were despaired of. The disease first appeared among the emigrants in a house in Champlain street. One Canadian, who had been working on board the ship, was seized by the disorder. A cholera hospital was established immediately, and every precaution taken by the proper authorities.

The crowded state of Quebec, and the filthy condition of the lower town, are supposed to have aided the progress of the disease. The total number of emigrants arrived this season, amounts to the unprecedented number of 25,700.

The Quebec Gazette of the 12th states that fifty nine cases and forty five deaths had occurred up to the evening of the 10th. A gentleman who brought the paper to New York, described the disease as exceeding in malignity any previous accounts of its virulence either in Europe or Asia, and all who were attacked were considered hopeless. He witnessed its first symptoms upon five emigrants standing upon the wharf, and before they could be conveyed to the hospital, two of them died. A servant woman living in the house where he boarded, was seized with the disease and died within three hours; and a crockery merchant of his acquaintance, living in the upper town, was carried off within six hours. Three persons were attacked on board the steamboat in which he came passenger to Montreal, and before they reached the next landing, one of them, a resident Canadian, was a corpse—the other two could not have survived.

The alarm in New York was followed by prompt measures, a liberal appropriation having been immediately made by the Common Council for providing hospital accommodations for the sick, should such a measure be necessary. At Albany the same precautions were in progress, the first step having been to stop the tide of emigrants from the infected places in Canada. The city marshal proceeded to the second lock of the canal, a mile from the city, and stopped three boats, which were examined by the health officer, but so determined were the passengers to proceed, that they jumped a shore and arrived at Albany on foot. The cranks were removed from the locks, to detain the boats.

The board of Health sent an officer to Whitehall, Burlington and Plattsburgh, with discretionary powers, but particularly to induce the authorities of Whitehall to exercise the power vested in them by law, to prevent the landing of emigrants and passengers from all boats and vessels until examined, and to obtain the same regulations at all other accessible points. They also sent similar instructions to the steamboats on Lake Champlain.

Reports of course continued to distract the citizens of Albany. A few of the emigrants stopped at various points by the authorities were said to have sickened and died. One died of the cholera on board the steamboat Phoenix at Whitehall, and the officer sent out by the board wrote that at Fort Miller several had sickened and two were dead—the disease pronounced the common cholera of the country.

Dr. De Kay has published a well written and excellent communication in the New York papers, which we insert. Like almost all phy-

sicians, he denies its contagious character; on this point we do not feel capable of deciding; but agree with the editor of the commercial Advertiser, who says, "In our view it is of no importance whether the disease be or be not contagious, or infectious. It is sufficient that it is transmissible, both by land and water, and is communicable in a variety of ways. If it be contagious, it is certainly catching, as the people say in the country. We have already stated our aversion to the irresponsible publication of remedies. The following opinion, however, from Dr. De Kay, who was attacked with this disease at Constantinople last year, is not of the description to which we allude.

1. The cause of the disease I believe to be unknown, but it is usually attributed to some peculiar state of the atmosphere. During my residence at Constantinople, comprising a period of six months, I kept a register of the weather, and could not discern that either the temperature or gravity of the air, or any particular winds, had any agency in producing or extending the disease.

2. The predisposing causes were errors or excess in diet; exposure to night air; irregularities in regimen; fear, anxiety, &c.

3. The essence of the disease appears to consist in an accumulation of blood in the veins and about the heart.

4. The disease rarely occurred in any two places under the same form; nor, as I was informed by the oriental physicians, did it always appear under the same form for two consecutive seasons at the same place. The chief characters of the disease were, however, constant, and the same medical means were employed. Smyrna, the most striking symptom was a discoloring of the hands, which at Constantinople I had never witnessed.

5. The mortality was greatest in low damp situations, and in the vicinity of fresh water streams. At Smyrna, which is built upon a marshy spot, the mortality was very great, while at Constantinople the disease appeared in a milder form.

6. Cholera is not contagious. My own experience is confirmed by that of every oriental physician with whom I consulted. It rarely attacked more than one in a family. The Turkish Government, at the suggestion of the medical faculty, refused to establish quarantines against this disease, but took other steps which might be worthy of imitation elsewhere. A pamphlet was published by order of the government, giving a history of this disease, the means of guarding against it, and the best treatment to be employed. These tracts were gratuitously distributed in every town and village throughout the empire.

7. The greatest mortality occurred amongst those whose mode of living was particularly meagre and abstemious. Cholera made its first appearance among the Jews of Smyrna, during one of their fasts, and committed great ravages. It is far from my wish to recommend intemperance, but I do not hesitate to state, that the occasional use of stimuli, in the shape of generous wine, brandy, or gin and water, was found highly serviceable during the prevalence of the Cholera at Constantinople. I need hardly remark that the habitually intemperate lose all the benefit of this remedy.

8. Every thing in this disease depends upon prompt medical aid. When this was resorted to at an early stage, Cholera became a mild and easily manageable disease.

Dr. De Kay, in company with Dr. Rhinlander, has been deputed to proceed to Montreal and Quebec, to make inquiries respecting the existence of the Cholera in Canada, and extend their enquiries as to the precautionary measures taken to avoid the disease—as to the mode of treatment of the sick—and generally as to all things which they may judge to be useful and important for the community to be informed of in relation to that disease.

The N. Y. Commercial of Monday says—"We have just had an interview with a gentleman who left Montreal on Friday—late on Thursday night it was believed that the deaths on that day had been from 100 to 120. [Subsequent accounts prove this an exaggerated statement.] The number of new cases could not be estimated—one physician said 300 to 400. The case on board of Capt. Lathrop's boat, our informant says was not cholera—the man died of dissipation. There had been no case of Cholera at St. Johns, nor had any case occurred on board a canal boat, as reported. Our informant came to this city for medicines. Camphor has risen already, from one dollar to two and a half per lb."

The Medical Society of New York having appointed a committee to ascertain the character of the disease in Canada, and report whether it has been transmitted from one person to another, their report is looked for with some anxiety.

In our own city, these reports, unofficial as they have been, received with our characteristic firmness, and without the alarm a consternation pervading the North. On Monday evening, Councils met, and passed an ordinance to raise \$30,000 to be employed as a "Sanitary Fund," and for no other purpose. They instituted a "Sanitary Board, consisting of three members of the select council, and five members of the Common council, together with the Mayor and Recorder of the city, whose duty it is to direct all such measures towards the cleaning and purifying the city, as they may think proper, and with power to prepare suitable places for the reception of the sick, and to perform

all such matters as in their discretion they may deem right." They also ordered that eight additional superintendents of the streets should be appointed by the Mayor, at a salary of \$40 per month. They are to divide the city into eight districts, and see that it is thoroughly purified and cleaned. The commissioners of Southwark have appointed an agent, whose duty it is to walk every day through the streets, lanes and alleys of the district, for the purpose of inquiring into all matters and things which may be prejudicial to the health of the district and report the same to the Superintendent of Police and to the President of the Board. The Commissioners have likewise directed all the streets, lanes, and alleys, to be thoroughly washed and cleaned without delay, and the gutters to be washed three times a week. So that every precaution seems to have been taken, and we must quietly wait the event.

The New York Courier & Enquirer says, "nearly all appear to have made up their minds that the pestilence will come." The National Gazette remarks on this that "it certainly is not warranted by the history of the march of that malady. Liverpool was in at least as much danger from Ireland, as New York can be from Canada, yet the great English commercial city has escaped so far—the great manufacturing cities were scarcely touched. It is not at all surprising or unexpected that a great mortality should prevail among the very many thousand emigrants who arrived at Quebec and Montreal in the space of a week or two—coming from infected parts of Ireland, and in a condition of itself pestilential. They brought, too, hundreds of cases of small pox to Quebec. Two or three respectable physicians of New York, who have been conversant with cholera abroad, are about to proceed to Canada, to study the type of the disease there. Every sound precaution ought, doubtless to be taken in our cities. The establishment of cholera hospitals, with paid physicians to be always in attendance, is certainly one of the best measures that can be adopted. Such a calamity as the prevalence of such an epidemic, affords plentiful scope for the very noblest efforts of the spirit of benevolence and humanity, public and private.

"See
The palm that virtue yields! in scenes like these
We trace humanity, and man with man
Related by the kindred sense of woe."

The situation, habits, and resources of the inhabitants of Philadelphia, we repeat it, are such as promise them, if not total exemption, at least, a comparatively slight visitation. Although it cannot be foreseen where the cholera may or may not alight, the greater or less mortality of it is determined by known local causes.—Saturday Bulletin.

Extract from the popular instructions as to the Cholera Morbus.
[Translated from late Paris papers.]

Observe the strict cleanliness both in person and dwellings.

Avoid all changes of being chilled, and keep the body warm, particularly the stomach, bowels and feet.

Avoid placing the feet upon the cold floor. Workmen obliged to work in cold or damp places would do well to wear wooden shoes or clogs.

Return home at an early hour, in order to avoid the damp and cold of the night air.

Avoid as much as possible excessive fatigue. Whatever may be the weather of the season, do not go too slightly clad.

Sobriety cannot be too strongly recommended; consequently avoid all excesses of eating and drinking; for it has been remarked that drunkenness and debauches have been most exposed to the attacks of the cholera.

Let your food be principally meat and meat soups; eat as little as possible of charcuterie and other salt meats, and abstain entirely from pastry.

Abstain from undressed food of every description.

All cold drinks, taken when a person is heated, are at all times dangerous. The water used as a beverage ought to be clear. Filtered water is better than any other. Instead of drinking it pure it would be better to mix it with two or three teaspoonfuls of brandy or sherry to a pint. Water lightly mixed with wine is equally good.

The excessive use of strong liquors is very pernicious, and taking unmixt brandy when fasting is equally so. Persons who have contracted the habit of doing so, should, at least, eat a piece of bread. The same objections apply to drinking white wine fasting.

All beer or cider of bad description ought to be avoided.

Every person who feels himself suddenly afflicted with dull pains in the limbs, heaviness or giddiness of the head, a feeling of oppression, uneasiness of the chest, heart-burn, or choleric should immediately apply to a physician.

Persons thus affected should immediately go to bed, and take, quite hot, an infusion of pepper mint and flowers of lime tree, and heat himself by every possible means.

Prepared chloric solutions being universally recommended as a useful precaution against infection of any kind, it may be desirable to give the following receipt for making them:

Take one ounce of dry chlorate of lime, and one quart of water; pour a sufficient quantity on the powder to make it into paste, and then dilute it with the remainder; strain off the solution, and keep it in glass or earthen vessels

well stoppered; a portion of this solution should be poured into a shallow bowl, and placed in every room in the house.

A resolution has been offered to congress to place \$50,000 at the disposal of the President of the United States, to preserve the people against the cholera.

Balloon Travelling.—The great object of the travelling community at the present day is speed. The rapidity of steamboats has been continually increasing for years, but it has not kept pace with the public feeling. Resort was then had to rail ways, and men were for a while content to be carried at the rate of thirty or forty miles an hour. What contrivance should be adopted when even this should lag behind the impatience and hurry of travellers, was a question that might have puzzled wiser heads than ours to guess. But we are now told, that an individual, a native of France, but a resident of this country, has discovered a method of navigating balloons, so that in a short time it may very probably be the fashion to take a sail in the air. This can hardly fail to produce a thorough revolution in the practices which now prevail. Rail-road stock will be down below par in a trice, for who will consent to be dragged behind a locomotive, when he can glide through the air like "an arrow from a bow." The superior advantages of balloon travelling cannot fail speedily to supersede entirely the use of all the modes now in use.—There will be no friction or jolting—no tolls to pay—no dust—no mud. The only difficulty that we can see, is the danger of occasionally running foul of a thunder cloud, which might produce something of a jar. However, this cannot fail to impart additional charms to it; for who loves to travel two or three hundred miles without running any risk or meeting with any marvellous accident? He who has been so unfortunate, is truly to be pitied; he has wasted his time and money without having got any thing to tell of. This new mode promises to be of great service in elevating men in the scale of being, and raising them "above the smoke and stir of this dull spot which men call earth."

An Irishman who had commenced building a wall round his lot of rather uncommon dimensions, viz: four feet high and six feet thick, being asked his reason for having it so thick, replied—"To save repairs, my honey. Don't you see that if it should ever fall down, it would be higher than it now is!"

Changes in the times.—Formerly, sailors were checked shirts and gentlemen wore white; now the tables are turned.

Formerly, servants drove their masters, now cuffy is a gentleman driven by his master.

Formerly, ladies paid afternoon visits to their friends early enough to return before sunset; now ladies go out to take tea, about the same time that their grand-mamas have retired to rest, and have had their first nap.

Formerly, dress was worn as a protection against the weather; now as a matter of ornament.

Formerly, wool cards were considered no disgrace to an industrious house keeper; now they are almost entirely suspended by playing cards and visiting cards!

Formerly, public offices were considered public trusts, to be executed for the public benefit; now they are regarded as the spoils of victory to be distributed amongst the conquerors.

Formerly, speeches measured by the hour, died with the hour; now a yard stick is the touch stone of the merit of most public speeches.

Formerly, it was considered but little short of treason, to speak of the dissolution of the Union; now it is spoken of with as little concern as the dissolution of commercial co-partnership.—U. S. Gazette.

The clergyman of a country village desired his clerk to give notice that there would be no service in the afternoon, as he was going to officiate for another clergyman. The clerk, immediately as the sermon was ended, rising up, cried out, "I'm desired to give notice that there will be no service this afternoon, as Mr. L. is going a fishing with another clergyman."—Mr. L. of course, corrected the awkward yet amusing blunder.

A gentleman travelling in America, had his attention arrested by a singular contest between a negro and the mule on which he was mounted. The indocile animal had thought proper to take exception to the carriage of the gentleman, which preceded him, and evinced a decided disinclination to pass it; his rider, on the other hand, was as resolute in his determination to effect a change in the conduct of his beast. At length the gentleman heard blackey exclaim to the mule, "I'll bet you a fivepenny I make you go by this time," then nodding his head, he added, "Do you bet?" After which, by means of some very pressing arguments of whip and spur, he succeeded in making the animal pass the carriage. The gentleman, who had been highly amused with the scene, called to the negro, and observed that, though the wager had been laid, he did not see how payment could be obtained from the mule. "Oh yek," replied blacky; "massa give me tenpenny for corn for him; he lose the bet, and me only give him fivepenny."