

I am convinced that if the administration of strychnia were early commenced, in conjunction with the other remedies usually employed for checking the discharges, the supervention of collapse might be prevented in a large majority of cases, and even where that state has already become extreme, its diligent and persevering use, together with the employment of other stimulants, might bring on reaction in cases otherwise perfectly hopeless.

I have further observed that the strychnia has been retained upon the stomach when all other substances were instantly rejected, and the strength has thus been sustained, while the extreme irritability of the organ was being combated by other means.

In the hope that by the general adoption of this plan of treatment the mortality of cholera may be materially diminished,

I remain, &c.,

R. CRAIK, M.D.

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In conclusion I may observe that the same plan of treatment will likely be found advantageous not only in the collapse of cholera, but also in various other prostrated conditions of the system, as after hæmorrhage, and from the effects of narcotic poisoning—to this latter class of cases strychnine, properly administered, will in all probability be found in some degree an antidote—its action on the nervous system being directly the opposite to that of narcotics, which destroy nervous power by paralyzing the nervous centres, while strychnine, by its affinity for, and extraordinary power of, stimulating the nervous centres, diffuses life and activity through every tissue and organ. To use the words of my talented and venerable friend Dr. Marshall Hall, "*It makes the old young, and the feeble strong.*" It is true that the action of strychnine is chiefly manifested on the cerebro-spinal system and the parts which it supplies with nervous power, and consequently its action is not so direct upon the organic organs, whose ordinary functions are believed to be independent of nervous power. But that the nervous system of animal life has a controlling influence over the organic functions, is a question in physiology that has been settled in the affirmative by both observation and direct experiment; hence when the cerebro-spinal system is stimulated to an extraordinary degree; that stimulation will be extended in some measure to the organs of organic life, and especially to the heart, blood vessels, liver, and intestines.—Upon the important function of respiration, which derives its nervous power directly from the cerebro-spinal system, and which shows early signs of failure in the collapse of cholera, strychnine exercises a more direct influence. That such is the *modus operandi* of strychnine in cholera, any one who pushes it so as to produce its consti-