

symptoms—the cramps—and remedies all the worst features of the disease. It is, however, no new and hitherto untried remedy, for it was long ago recommended by M. Abeille, who states that it modifies advantageously and rapidly the phenomena of cholera by its influence on the sensitive nerves. In the algide stage it excited reaction nineteen times out of twenty-three cases, and there were ten recoveries.

Though long lost sight of in this country, strychnine was employed with marked success during a comparatively recent outbreak of cholera in Japan by Assist. Surgeon W. Hensman, of the second battalion of the 20th Regt.; and the attention of my brother, John Balfour, I.G., having been directed to it, he resolved to give it a fair trial in an outbreak of cholera at Leven, Fifeshire, where he is now in charge. He writes me that he has seen nothing which so speedily relieves the urgent symptoms, or gives such hope of snatching many a serious case from the verge of the grave. The cramps soon cease, the purging and vomiting are mitigated, and in those cases in which the pulse has been imperceptible for hours, it is again felt at the wrist, while the complexion changes from the horrible dull-blue tint to the natural healthy colour, the urine being also generally secreted at once. The urgent symptoms are, in fact, immediately relieved, and though it does not cure every case, this treatment holds out a fair prospect of more favourable returns under circumstances more propitious than could be supplied in a small country town of 2,700 inhabitants, with one medical practitioner to attend upon all the cholera patients, no hospital, and a defective supply of nurses. As it is, 15 out of 24 well-marked cases thus treated have died; but many of them would have succumbed under all circumstances, even to a disease less formidable than cholera, as three were between seventy and eighty years of age, two more above sixty, another had long-standing disease both of the chest and womb, and several others were greatly deficient in bodily strength and stamina.

The general plan of treatment adopted is to place hot bottles round the patient and cover him with an ample supply of blankets: a large sinapism is then applied over the whole abdomen, and, in adults, left on for an hour. If the disease be not too far advanced, a drachm of laudanum is then administered (chlorodyne was employed at first, but was found too irritating to the stomach), ice to suck is allowed *ad libitum*, and small quantities of soda water if desired. Should this treatment have a good effect, the patient is conducted to recovery in the ordinary way; but should vomiting recur, or collapse come on, strychnine is had recourse to, a solution being employed containing one grain to the ounce, and of this a drachm and a half to two drachms is given to an adult for