

British Navy. This learned physician, in reference to the outbreak of cholera, among the fleet in the Euxine states:—

“HE IS OF OPINION THAT THE PEST WAS IMPORTED FROM THE WEST, AND NOT ENGENDERED BY LOCAL CONDITIONS EITHER IN THE CAMP OR FLEETS. He thinks that the vessels imbibed the poison from the shore, adopted the right course in putting to sea; and that whereas they all did derive benefit from this expedient, with the exception of the *Britannia*, that exception was due to the necessity which arose on the night of the 15th for closing the lower deck ports. This proceeding in his views of the case, prevented proper ventilation, and thus by producing an extraordinary concentration of the choleraic poison occasioned the mortality.”

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE CAUSES OF CHOLERA.

The committee alluded to in the above article passed through our city, we think, in the beginning of October—to what results their investigations have led them we know not; but we presume that the determination of the original question is “still dragging its slow length along” for in common with others we received a circular in the month of January purporting to elicit answers upon the matter which led to the formation of the committee. These, we may remark are chiefly a repetition of others answered personally months previously. When the labours of these gentlemen shall find an end would be perhaps too obtusive if not impertinent to ask; but, when they do, we trust we shall be favored with at least the cream of the information that has been gathered. We have too high an opinion of the discerning powers of the physicians who compose it, and for whose talents we have the highest respect, to believe that it will all end in the discovery of a mare’s nest.

The following is the circular alluded to:

MR. LE DOCTEUR,—Avez-vous eu du choléra asiatique, cette année dans votre pratique?

Comment et à quelle date s’est-il introduit dans votre pratique; s’y est-il développé spontanément, ou bien pouvez-vous tracer les premiers cas à des rapports avec des personnes atteintes du choléra ou avec des lieux où sévissait la maladie?

Croyez-vous le choléra asiatique contagieux; dans quelles conditions s’est-il, et mentionnez les faits sur lesquels s’appuie votre croyance?

Le choléra asiatique est-il épidémique et est-il possible de l’arrêter dans sa marche par des cordons sanitaires ou par quelques mesures de quarantaine ou hygiénique?

Est-il nécessaire au développement du choléra asiatique qu’un premier cas soit importé dans une localité pour qu’il y éclate, ou peut-il y naître spontanément?

Les Commissaires soussignés osent espérer que vous voudrez bien, dans l’intérêt de la science et de la société, répondre aux questions ci-dessus sous le plus court délai possible.