

slight as to have escaped the immediate notice of nosologists ; in other words, my theory is that the poison of cholera was becoming ingrafted, as it were, on previous or co-existent diseases to a certain extent, and henceforward "Asthenic" diseases slowly, but surely, became and still continue the prevailing type, thus rendering the practice of venesection almost obsolete. This prevailing type may last for many years to come, until another cycle comes round, and the choleraic poison become worn out or effete, similarly as the potato disease or rot has disappeared from this very valuable tuber ; and there may be gentlemen here present (I mean the young) who may live to see another type set in of a sthenic character, in the treatment of which diseases the lancet and depletion generally will be once again called into active requisition.

Dr. Watson, in 1843, ten years after the prophetic words of Dr. Davies, writes thus in reference to epidemic or Asiatic cholera : "We have had slight sprinklings of cholera in and about London since 1832." This remark shews the continuing existence of the choleraic poison or influence to that time, and would tend to assist my theory. In 1863, 20 years after Dr. Watson's reference to cholera, I happened to be in Edinburgh, and made the acquaintance of the late Professor Bennett, to whom I was relating the history of a relative of his whom I had attended with apoplexy. I remarked that I had taken a small quantity of blood from the arm. His instantaneous observation was, "We never bleed in this country ; in fact, few practitioners own a lancet." I explained to him that such was the general practice in Canada, but that this was looked upon as an exceptional case, and that I had done it in deference to the opinion of another gentleman who had been called in consultation, rather than on my own own account, as I was not particularly in favor of it. However, as only about 4 ounces were taken, it was a matter of little moment ; and as the patient recovered from the immediate effects of the attack, we will suppose the treatment was correct.

This little episode will prove that the practice of venesection had been thoroughly tabooed in Scotland for many years, though for how long a period antecedently does not appear.