

were completely impregnated with the poison, yet not one of them was lost.

There were also about thirty-one similar cases, in which the above symptoms were still more distinctly marked, and in many of them the bowel complaint was more or less accompanied with cramps. These were all treated in the same way with the non-purgative salts, and in three, four, or five days, every one of them were sent from the observation ward, as we believed at the time, completely out of danger. I am sorry, however, to be obliged to add, that two of these cases which had been unfortunately dismissed too soon, and sent back as cured to the cold wards of the prison, were attacked with collapse during the night; and before they could again be put under the saline treatment, their stomachs were so irritable that they could scarcely retain even a teaspoonful of water; and both these cases proved fatal in a very short period from the commencement of the collapse.

In addition to the eighty-one individuals already referred to, we had about nineteen cases in the prison, where the patients were either attacked with the disease, and got into a state of asphyxia in the cold wards of the prison during the night, or where the stomach was so irritable in the first stage that it could not retain the stronger salts. In almost every one of those cases the disease assumed a most malignant character. These were all treated with the energetic non-purgative saline remedies; and in the nineteen malignant cases to which I now refer, we had eighteen recoveries, and only one death: consequently, the total number of patients, who were all evidently under the influence of the Cholera poison, was about one hundred, yet in those cases where we trusted almost entirely to the saline practice, we had only three deaths, and ninety-seven recoveries.

In corroboration of the above statement, I will insert here the following letter from Mr. Wakefield, which was published in the Medical Gazette for April 28, 1832.

['In further illustration of the treatment which has been adopted in the cases of Cholera which have occurred at Cold-Bath Fields, we insert the following communication from Mr. Wakefield, the intelligent and highly respectable practitioner who has the medical charge of the prisoners.'] - *Editor of the Gazette.*

'Lansdown-Place, Brunswick-Square,  
April 25, 1832.

'Sir,—So much has already been written on the subject of Cholera, that I should not now appear before the public, but from a conviction that the facts which I am about to state, if generally known and properly authenticated, (which they can easily be,) must be useful to those of the profession who in future may be called upon to treat this new, but most malignant disease.

'The first case which I saw, occurred on the 5th of this month, in the prison at Cold-Bath Fields. Three others quickly followed, and were immediately put under the common treatment: these four patients died, after a short illness, with all the symptoms of Cholera distinctly marked.

'Soon after the commencement of the disease, a number of the prisoners were attacked with marked symptoms of derangement in the gastric organs; and as all of these cases occurred in the infected part of the prison, it is more than probable from this, as well as the general appearance of the patients, that the diarrhoea with which they were attacked, was the effect of the poison which produces Cholera. From

having seen similar cases in the commencement: transformed rapidly into a state of collapse, my conviction is that every one of those patients were more or less in serious danger; and I believe also that, had they either been left to themselves or improperly treated, the majority of these cases would have run into a state of collapse, perhaps in a few hours; indeed I have little doubt that this one-half of them would have been lost under the practice which is generally adopted in the treatment of this disease.

'Independently of the numerous cases where the individuals were laboring under the premonitory symptoms, I have now had twenty-five cases of decided Cholera, where the patients were in a state of collapse; and in justice to Dr. Stevens, who suggested the use of the saline remedies, as well as from a sense of what I owe to the public, I conceive it my duty to state, that after having seen both the old and the new treatment fairly put to the test, I am fully convinced that the saline practice is not only the most scientific, but decidedly the most successful that has yet been adopted for the cure of Cholera; and from what I have seen, my conviction is, that if this treatment be fairly and extensively tried, the mortality from Cholera will be greatly diminished. When used at an early period, it either prevents or arrests the progress of the fatal symptoms; and even where this treatment is not used until a later period of the disease, its effects are distinctly marked; and I may safely say that I have seen several most malignant cases recover from the state of collapse under the saline treatment, where the patients, I doubt not, would have died under any other practice.

'We have now upward of twelve hundred persons in this prison; and from the commencement of the disease up to this date, there have been nearly one hundred cases where individuals have been more or less evidently laboring under the influence of the Cholera poison. Twenty-five of these assumed the malignant character of the disease, having the majority of the symptoms described in the printed document issued by Dr. Macann. Four of the first cases, as before observed, were treated in the common way, and every one of them died. All the others, however, were immediately put under the use of the saline practice as recommended by Dr. Stevens, and out of the whole number who have been thus treated, we have only had three deaths from Cholera, and two of these were cases of relapse. I may state also, that within the last few days I have had one most malignant case in the New Prison at Clerkenwell, where the patient was in a state of complete collapse before I saw him. His extremities were cold; his pulse at the wrist was entirely gone; he had the Cholera voice, and his tongue was icy cold. This man, like those in the other prison, was immediately put under the saline treatment with the happiest effects, and I consider him now in a state of convalescence.

'I am, Sir,

'Your obedient Servant,

'H. WAKEFIELD.'

It has been observed, lately, by individuals who are still anxious to cling to their former opinions, that the above cases occurred at a period when the disease was on the decline in this metropolis. These gentlemen forget, however, that London is not a village, and that though the disease was then decreasing in Southwark, Rotherhithe, &c., where it first commenced, yet at that period it was only beginning in that part of the metropolis where the prison is situated. There is also one most important fact

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