

as a spark of life remains. But within a shorter period experience proves that a stimulus introduced into the stomach, which shall support the expiring powers, and enable the veins of that organ, and other channels, to convey fluid to dilute the blood, appears the grand *desideratum*. In the military hospitals, besides the ordinary calefactive external applications, calomel, in small doses, frequently repeated, has been chiefly relied on; to this have been added camphor, capsicum, ammonia, champagne, and a host of other medicines. These remedies, and some scores besides, have been either given by myself or under my immediate observation, during twenty years' experience, in cholera; but I regret to say with little effect.

But there is one powerful stimulant, which I have never employed, although I had read of its use in the Parisian hospitals, namely, strychnine; and this really appears the best of all. In the late epidemic, Dr. Fraser, a Professor of the McGill University, gave it in doses of 1-48 of a grain, dissolved in acetic acid and alcohol, every fifteen minutes, or in very severe cases, every ten minutes, to twenty-two patients under collapsed cholera, in the Montreal General Hospital, without selection. The result was more favorable than I have ever observed, or than any recorded instances of which I have read or heard; fifteen of the twenty-two recovered.

Dr. Fraser has given the names of his patients, and a few other particulars, in the September number of the Montreal Medical Chronicle; and this statement is therein corroborated by two medical officers of the hospital. Another physician of that institution, Dr. Campbell, says in the same number, he has used strychnine in cholera, in doses of 1-32 of a grain in three bad cases, with considerable benefit; and adds that he thinks it the best stimulant hitherto employed in the disease. I am of the same opinion, but would recommend iced champagne and water as an accompanying drink during its use.

The military cases of cholera this year have been almost universally asthenic and typhoid, and consequently most dangerous. They have differed essentially from those in 1832, when the disease was first seen in this country. I was then surgeon of the 66th Regiment; and the first eleven men that were attacked labored under very severe spasms, with flushed faces, hot skins, and strong action of the heart and arteries. They were all bled from the arm, and recovered.

The castor oil treatment of King's College, London, does not appear to me likely to continue in favor in that institution. However valuable in the first stage of cholera, this medicine, I think, is useless in the collapse.

The labors of the medical officers in this command, during the late