

all probability the comma bacillus will prove the cause of Asiatic cholera,—and all must admit that for the discovery of these new and valuable methods and precautions for use in connection with bacterial experiments through the digestive system, the profession is deeply indebted to Dr. Koch. A point of great practical interest in connection with the subject, is the important *role* which opium plays in aiding the action of the cholera virus; and few practitioners would now be bold enough, in view of these new developments, to follow the time-honored custom of uniformly prescribing opium during the early stages of a suspected case of cholera.

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The prospects of the Washington Congress of 1887 do not appear to grow brighter, and the tone of the great medical weeklies of the eastern cities shows very plainly that there is still war between the adherents of the old and the new committees. It is a great misfortune that there does not seem to be any central executive of the Congress which could step in and say—Stop this unseemly quarrelling at once, or we shall go elsewhere! But apparently the meeting must take place in Washington or not at all. The latter alternative would be preferable if a reconciliation is not effected; for, if matters remain as they are, it will be impossible to organize the sections with men of sufficient reputation to command success. To attract the workers of other countries the sections must be controlled by the men most eminent in their respective departments, but the present officers of sections, with few exceptions, do not reach beyond a respectable mediocrity, and are men that we cannot regard as representative. If the Executive cannot secure the return of the leaders in thought and work, and fails to engage their hearty coöperation, but one thing remains to be done, and in the interests of the profession of the United States, it should be done soon—give it up. Better no Congress than a prolongation of this unseemly strife.