

are changed. Besides pilgrimages, the countless fairs serve to maintain local foci of infection, whence the disease is carried in various directions ; and the annual caravan of Afghan merchants, or *Provincdahs*, slowly traveling from fair to fair through the cities of Northern India, easily convey it to Persia and to Central Asia, whence, as we have seen, it has so often entered Russia. Once imported into Europe, it depends on the sanitary surroundings whether it establish itself or no. The actual carriers are usually pilgrims, the lower class of seamen, and steerage passengers, dirty in their persons and their habits, their clothes and baggage also serving as fomites. If, as in the smaller towns and villages of Europe, the old system of cesspool and well is still in favor, nothing more is wanted than the arrival of an individual suffering from the initial symptoms to set up an epidemic like that of Altenburg in 1865."

WHEN IT MAY BE EXPECTED.

The probabilities are, according to those best able to judge, that the epidemic, if it is to come here at all, will not reach us before next summer. "The injudicious attempts to create a panic among the people by sensational publications should therefore be discountenanced by the medical press, at the same time that every encouragement is given to the general adoption of prophylactic measures and the enforcement of sanitary requirements."

Usually the progress westward of epidemics of cholera have been slow, and several years have been required for them to extend around the world. The great epidemic which commenced in Jessore in 1817 did not reach this continent until fifteen years later, 1832. The means of inter-communication however are now so much more numerous and modes of transit so much more rapid, that the disease may spread as far in a month as it did in a year half a century ago.

The epidemic is only likely to reach this country by way of Great Britain. The disease has not usually come into Europe and Great Britain by way of Egypt, but by way of Persia and central Asia to Russia, and thence westward. On its first and second appearance in England it showed itself only in fifteen months after its introduction into Europe. It first reached Europe by way of Egypt in 1865. At that time it became epidemic in the Hadjaz in May, appeared in Alexandria, Malta, Smyrna, and Constantinople before the end of June, and in Spain, Italy and France in July. It spread somewhat widely in Europe in August and reached Southampton on the 17th