

1. Relieving the patient's suffering most speedily, both as regards pain, loss of rest, and sweating;

2. Of most quickly restoring the patient to strength, for it is extremely rare for him to be confined to bed more than a week, or to be confined to his room for more than a fortnight; and

3. Of securing extraordinary freedom from heart-complications, or liability to relapses.

[In the discussion which ensued upon this paper, Dr. Falconer of Bath, showed some tracings made by the syphgmograph in some cases of rheumatic fever, which showed that, whilst the power of the heart at the commencement of the attack was generally about equal to the natural standard, it fell as the disease progressed to such a degree as to exhibit, by tracings, a loss of nearly half its strength. He thought that this loss of muscular power in the heart might account for those cases in which the patient dies after apparent recovery from rheumatic fever, and yet, after death, there is no apparent disease of the heart discoverable. These observations (which have been carried on by Dr. Falconer without any correspondence with the author of the paper) have a very important bearing upon the plan of treatment advocated in it, the principle of which is directed from the first to supporting the energy of the muscular and nervous system by the administration of quinine, in conjunction with the agents described; which are followed by an early cessation of exhausting pain, sweating, and loss of rest, and a remarkable immunity from heart-affections.]—*British Medical Journal*.

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#### ON THE TREATMENT OF CHOLERA BY STRYCHNINE.

By GEORGE W. BALFOUR, M.D.

Whatever tends to increase our capability of coping with so formidable a disease as cholera cannot be uninteresting to the profession at any time, but must be specially interesting at the present moment, when we are still labouring under an epidemic most severe in its character, if not, as yet, very wide-spread in its dimensions.

The bromides of potassium and ammonium, the chlorate of potash, and the saturated tincture of camphor, have all been tried without any marked success, and have left only the impression that as yet no advance has been made on former plans, and that the best treatment for cholera is still a large dose of opium early enough; and God help those who pass into the stage of complete collapse, for then all human remedies seem alike useless. The treatment, however, which I am about to recommend may be used with great hope of success even in cases of the most complete collapse, and, even where not successful, it relieves the most painful