

had the cause of the disease been generally diffused in the atmosphere of the camp and town, would not great numbers of the people have been attacked, almost immediately, on the occurrence of the first case?

The second general fact is the following:—Among the islands of the Indian Ocean, it was observed that the cholera uniformly commenced its ravages in the seaport towns, or in those towns seated a few miles inland, which have a constant intercourse with their harbours at the shore. In the island of Mauritius, the disease first appeared in the town of Port Louis. In Bourbon, the town of St. Denis was first attacked; in Java, the town of Samarang, and so of the islands Sumatra, Penang, Borneo, Celebes, Lucon, &c. In the Persian Gulf, also, the same order of infection was observed. Muscat, the principal trading port town, first received the disease. Then, the port of Bahrein, and Busheer and Bassara.

The same order was observed on this continent. First the port of Quebec was attacked, then New York, New Orleans, Halifax, Boston, &c. How can this extraordinary and uniform partiality which the cholera exhibited in its choice of seaport towns for its first inroad be explained, unless on the principle of contagion?

QUARANTINE is a subject that occupies a larger space in the pages of medical history at this time, than it has done hitherto. The interests of a commercial country, says Kennedy, require that vessels should enter and depart from its harbours without let or impediment—for the interposition of a very slight delay may completely alter the character of a mercantile speculation, and the interval of a single week may convert a valuable article of import into an unmarketable drug. In such a country, therefore, no regulations restrictive of the freedom of maritime enterprise should be adopted *without the strongest plea of necessity, and the best-founded assurance that they are likely to prove adequate to the accomplishment of their object.* If injudiciously framed, or imperfectly executed, they merely serve to aggravate the evil they were intended to prevent. These observations are peculiarly applicable to quarantine laws, the operation of which is not only detrimental to property, but productive of very serious annoyance to individuals, by the sacrifice they are obliged to make of their personal liberty to the general safety.

The progress of the Eastern Pestilence, and the evidence of its contagious character, leave no doubt of the propriety of submitting to many inconveniences for the purpose of staying its approaches to our shores. No rational means should be left untried to bar the introduction of so terrible a scourge—and as the magnitude of our dealings with foreign countries tends at once to augment the peril from the disease, and the