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[At such a time when Cholera is making such havoc in the Domestic circle, snatching one here, and another there. Treating the rich with the same respect that it does the poor. The following simple directions for its treatment will be read with interest; at the same time we would caution the public against the too frequent use of stimulants, such as Brandy, Spiced Brandy, Cholera mixtures, &c.; they are all very well when taken with caution, but otherwise they have been known to prove fatal in a great many instances. We wish we could engrave the word TEMPERANCE upon the hearts of all. It might be the means of saving many valuable lives.]

CHOLERA!

SIMPLE DIRECTIONS

FOR THE

Prevention, Arresting and Treatment

OF

ASIATIC CHOLERA.

Doctor McCormick, of the United States Army, and one of the gentlemen constituting General Taylor's suite while on his way to Washington, is the author of the following remarks on the pathology and treatment of cholera. They were originally written and transmitted, in a private letter, to a friend at the North, who, knowing that Dr. McCormick's experience in the treatment of cholera embraced the visitation of that disease at Washington, in 1832, and recently at New Orleans, very naturally desired to learn his views with regard to the best mode of treating it. Another of the gentlemen accompanying General Taylor, who was aware that Dr. McCormick had committed his views on the subject to writing, and desirous to see them in print, applied to the Doctor for a copy. It will be found annexed:

Cholera has four distinctly marked stages:

- 1st. Loose dejections.
- 2d. Watery discharges by the stomach, bowels and skin.
- 3d. Corps-like coldness, and blueness of the skin or collapse.
- 4th. Reaction, choleric fever, a state strongly resembling Typhus.

The first consists in a simple looseness of the bowels—the dejections being frequent, and more or less copi-

ous, and then the consistence decreasing with each evacuation, until it arrives at the next plainly marked stage of the disease. The second period: the evacuations now consist of little else than a watery fluid. With these discharges the thirst is always intense, and the voice begins to fail. The stomach becomes involved, pouring forth the same watery fluid in greater or less abundance, and ushered in with this evacuation from the stomach, bowels and skin; and apparently intimately connected with it is seen the most *painfully* distressing phenomenon of this terrific malady—the cramps and spasms—causing the patient at times to writhe in agony, giving forth every expression of pain that human torture could provoke.

The third period follows, and consists of collapse. This seems naturally explained by the waste of the watery portion of the blood and the great exhaustion of the nervous system, so intimately connected with it, and with the violent cramps and spasms. The voice has become more feeble, the watery evacuations cease, the agony is over, for the spasms have also ceased, and the patient lies indifferent, apathetic, fearless, and craves only drink. The thirst continues intense, becomes insatiable, and seems to exist in a direct ratio to the quantity of watery fluid poured forth by the discharges, and to depend thereon. It seems to arise from an instinctive desire and urgent demand to supply the waste and drainage of the system. The whole body shrinks, the features become contracted, pointed, peculiar, (choleric countenance,) the eyes deeply sunken in their sockets, balls rolled upwards, or natural, expressing great suffering, or total indifference. The skin is as cold as a corpse, and moist, of a bluish hue, varying both in intensity of color, and extent of surface it occupies; the hands and feet particularly are shrivelled and corrugated, and greatly shrunken, having lost at least one-third of their bulk, and look as if long macerated in water, (like a wash-woman's hand,) the pulse is scarcely discernible or extinct, and the action of the heart feeble; the air enters the lungs, but respiration is laborious, with a sense of suffocation from the changed condition of the blood, that prevents the full vivifying influence of the air on it—the spissidity being such, that it does not flow in its usual channels, which expose so great a surface to the action of the air throughout its minute and abundant capillaries. The voice, enfeebled and greatly diminished, has become husky and nearly extinct, and the demand it makes is still for cold drinks—ice water. They complain of being parched, burning up, and yet the whole surface is icy cold, and possesses an exalted sensibility: sinapisms, blisters, &c., are loudly complained of as burning like fire—insupportable; even the hand of a healthy person, brought in contact with a collapsed cholera patient, I have heard loudly complained of as burning. The tongue is cold, broad, flat and dry, or mucous and pasty; the abdomen retracted. In short, the whole body has become collapsed. The blood, changed in its character, deprived of its watery portion, no longer traverses its accustomed rounds, but collects in the heart and veins, especially the larger trunks, in undue quantity. This change of place, arising from a change in the spissidity of the blood, gives rise in its turn to other changes. There is no arterial blood; there is no secretion, perhaps, except that of bile, for, as before stated, the blood has forsaken the arteries, and retreated into the veins.

Throughout all this frightful havoc of the physical