

caused it, of 41 degrees. Let us now, in prosecution of the rationale of Dr. Mair's treatment, as stated by himself, turn to the result of his observations on the temperature of the surface in cases of Cholera. In three cases examined by him, the heat indicated by a thermometer in the arm-pit was 90—94, and 92 degrees respectively. In points further removed from the centre of circulation the temperature would of course be lower, so that we may take, as more favorable to his hypothesis, an average surface temperature of 70 degrees. Now, if we apply ice to a surface at that temperature, and keep it long enough applied, *we cool the surface down* 38 degrees, or, in other words, our application is 38 degrees *colder*, instead of 41 degrees *warmer* than the surface, as we found it to be in the case of frost-bite supposed, so that the parallel which Dr. Mair has attempted to draw between the treatment of frost-bite and of collapsed Cholera, by "*cold applications*," has no existence.

The pathology of Cholera is no doubt very obscure, and its treatment proportionably uncertain ; but I think that we are most likely to combat this fearful malady with success, if we take as our guide the recognized and established principles of the profession,—and I may add that I consider it most dangerous to give to the public through the medium of an ordinary newspaper any suggestions which have not these as their base, or which, on the most close and searching scrutiny, can be found inconsistent with the known laws of physiology,—I believe it will be universally admitted that the primary indication of treatment in collapsed Cholera is to *cause reaction* ; and it appears to me, that, reasoning from analogy, we can have no more hope of doing so by the application of cold than we can have of resuscitating a drowned man by keeping him immersed in cold water,—of curing a frost-bite, produced by a temperature of mercury 10 degrees, by the application of frozen mercury (39 degrees), or restoring a limb affected with senile gangrene, or the main artery of which has been tied, by "*packing in a cold, wet sheet*."

It is proverbial that "*Doctors differ* ;" and on no subject is a difference between them more legitimate than on the treatment of Cholera. I trust that Dr. Mair will not consider that I have transgressed the fair bounds of discussion in having stated my objections, not so much to his practice, as to the theory on which it is based.

KINGSTON, 13th July, 1854.

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