

5th volume of the *Med. Chir. Transactions*. They state that of several thousand cases of choleraic diarrhoea treated by evacuants, not one passed into collapse, and they declare that 'in every case relief was afforded pleasantly, quickly, and safely.' In contrast with that I may quote the result in two hundred cases treated with opium by two well-known French physicians; of that number twenty-six passed into collapse, though whether they died is not said. Fortunately in most cases the diarrhoea goes on in spite of the opium, and this is no doubt the main reason why the opium treatment is not more fatal than it actually is. Even in such cases, however, it often prolongs the illness. I may mention the case of a celebrated surgeon who returned to England at the close of the epidemic after his autumn holiday. He was seized with diarrhoea on his arrival home, and took several doses of opium. The diarrhoea continued and he came to me at the end of the week in great discomfort with a pale face, coated tongue, etc. He had evidently stored up in his intestines a quantity of abnormal excretions. I persuaded him to take a dose of castor oil, and he got well at once. The case shows you the ill-effect of opium even in ordinary cases.

"One author has published several cases treated by opium, which he calls 'consecutive fever without collapse.' These cases were really cases of diarrhoea, in which formidable symptoms had followed the retention of poisonous matter in the alimentary canal. A case which occurred during the epidemic of 1866 is interesting as showing the comparative effect of opposite treatment in the same individual. The patient was a youth in Blackfriars, who had drunk water from the Temple pump, which was recognised to have given rise to cholera. The diarrhoea had been arrested with opium. I found him in state of collapse and pulseless. The alimentary canal was obviously distended by a large quantity of fluid, which had accumulated in consequence of none having passed for several hours. I am convinced that if left alone he would have died soon. He was given several doses of castor oil during the night, had a free action of the bowels, the next day he was much better, and he gradually made a good recovery.