

on to say, "being dispersed into several parts of the palace, have prayed to God for his health, and have all brought this answer, 'he shall recover.'" Clarendon tells the same story. "But the fits grew stronger and his spirits much abated; so that he returned again to Whitehall when his physicians began to think him in danger, though the preachers, who prayed always about him and told God Almighty what great things he had done for him, and how much more need he had still of his service, declared as from God, that he should recover."

Cromwell died at Whitehall on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 3rd, 1658, that day being the anniversary both of Dunbar and Worcester. He was the last Englishman of note to die in England of ague. Cinchona bark came into use in England about 1655. Had it been administered judiciously, Cromwell's life would have been saved. Unfortunately, a wretched City Alderman, one Underwood, died whilst taking the bark, which gave rise to so much idle talk about the dangers of the new remedy that the physicians feared to employ it.

Abundant contemporary evidence exists as to the prevalence of ague in England to account for the deaths of two men of note such as James I. and Cromwell. At that time the soil about London was neither drained nor cultivated during some months of the year. The marshes of Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire were covered with clouds of cranes.* Southwark was a swamp, and at Westminster there is a gate called the Marshgate,† from being situated in a place where there was once a marsh. Ague was less prevalent after the Great Fire. The number of deaths decreased per annum rapidly. In 1728 there were 44; and in 1730 only 16. In the ten years from 1800 to 1810 four deaths were registered. Dr. Caius says that ague was so fatal in London in 1558 that the living could hardly bury the dead. Burnet says it raged like a plague. According to Sydenham, from 1661 to 1665 it was the most fatal disease in England. In the Walcheren expedition, 10,000 men, two-thirds of our force died of marsh fever.

The body of Cromwell was got rid of in some mysterious man-

* Macauley.

† Elliotson.