

Of primary importance in the management of cases of cholera is, of course, an accurate diagnosis of the condition; and fortunately this offers but little difficulty to the skilled clinician, particularly if it has been his privilege to have seen the disease before, and still more especially if it is in his power to bring bacteriologic methods to his aid.

When recognized, the management of these cases and the methods of prophylaxis against their spread depend so largely upon absolute isolation and attention to sanitary surroundings that too much stress cannot be laid upon these points.

By isolation is not meant simply the confinement of a patient in a room or apartment set aside for the infectious maladies, but it comprises a great deal more; it must be absolute, or the sense of security that it affords becomes false, and is, therefore, worse than useless. The isolation of a patient with this disease, or with any other form of highly infectious malady, implies the provision of separate apartments; an attendant whose duties are confined to patients who are similarly affected; plates, dishes, bed-pans, bedclothing, etc., that are used by no other patient; and a rigorous disinfection of all excreta, vomited matters, and refuse food *before they are removed from the apartment occupied by the individual*. It involves the greatest care and intelligence on the part of the attendant to close all channels through which he or she and the patient may become a source of contamination, for contamination and spread of these diseases occur almost as frequently through the attendant as through the patient. The reason for this can be appreciated only after an intimate acquaintance with the nature of the causative element and its peculiarities when outside the body of the diseased individual.

Studies that have been made upon Asiatic cholera in recent years have shown it to be of an infectious nature, and due to the activities of a specific lower organism, which is present in the intestinal canal of all infected persons. This organism belongs to the family of bacteria. It is a bacillus, comma-shaped or curved in its morphology, and presents peculiarities of growth and chemical reactions that render its identification by the bacteriologist a matter of certainty and of a fair degree of simplicity. As a result of studies upon the nature of this organism, when isolated under artificial conditions, it is found to possess a relatively low degree of resistance to both thermal and chemical agents; that is to say, its vitality and disease-producing properties are easily destroyed by heat, and it quickly becomes inert when subjected to those chemical substances that are known to possess germicidal qualities. It likewise loses its resistance when *absolutely* dried, but retains it for a longer or shorter time when the drying is not complete. Having gained access to water, its growth seems to depend upon the amount of organic matter present, the reaction of the fluid,