

ed, which had not been preceded by diarrhœa of mild or severe type, and of longer or shorter duration. It is now generally allowed to be the first stage of the disease, in which it may be cut short without difficulty.

The medical officers here have effected this in different ways, each employing his favorite medicines. Indeed, the secret of success seems to have been the early administration of the remedy. Calomel, followed by an o'eaginous purgative, occupies the first place, and has been most generally used; next, calomel and opium; then rhubarb and magnesia, diluted sulphuric acid, rhubarb and ginger, &c. &c. A few trusted to acetate of lead and other astringents; but this appears to have been the least successful practice. Some gentlemen gave calomel and opium in a pill; but pills have always appeared to me objectionable where time is valuable.

As I had done in four previous epidemics of this kind, I recommended the following treatment:—Patient to lie down on bed on the right side; if an adult, two tablespoonfuls of castor oil, and fifteen or twenty minims of tincture of opium are to be beaten up well in a cupful of hot milk, or milk and water into an emulsion, and administered. The milk must be very hot. If the oil is rejected, which, when thus prepared, is rarely the case, it is to be repeated in half an hour.

The position is intended to facilitate the gravitation of the fluid, that it may pass quickly into the intestines.

With this medicine only, assisted by tepid demulcent drinks, I have treated successfully several hundred cases of diarrhœa during cholera epidemics since 1832; and on various occasions, when attacked myself with choleraic diarrhœa, in these trying seasons, or when members of my family have been ill, we have trusted to this alone.

The oil and laudanum appear to glide soothingly through the small intestines in contact with the mucous membrane, where congestion may be commencing. This the oil appears to dissipate, by gently exciting the normal peristaltic action, and thus eliminating the morbid and irritating secretions. This theory may be wrong, and the *modus operandi* here glanced at defective, in some important particulars, yet I am certain as to the value of the practice.

In their Cholera Reports the medical officers under my command give testimony in support of this.

*Treatment of Collapsed Cholera*—The London College of Physicians have published this year a valuable Report on Cholera, which was drawn up by Drs. Baly and Gull. The pathology and treatment were entrusted to Dr. Gull; and he has illustrated the subject in various ways, amongst others, by giving the result of modern researches into the chemistry of healthy and choleraic blood. The authors, who have most ably inves-