

The third stage is announced by a perfect sinking of all the vital powers, excepting the muscular. This is frequently retained to the last moment. The pulse flags, or is very quick and intermittent. The vomiting is incessant; and the matter thrown up exceeds very much in quantity, the drinks of the patient. A sense of gnawing and hunger is often felt, the tongue becomes black in the centre with red edges; there are cold clammy sweats, dirty yellowness of skin, hemorrhages from the nose, bowels and stomach, hiccup, convulsions—and death closes the scene.

Sometimes these symptoms do not all appear. The patient is drowsy, perhaps, for a day or two, and is suddenly seized with the final symptoms, which quickly end his sufferings, ere the nature of the disease has been even suspected. In other cases the whole train of phenomena is milder, and the recovery very speedy.

*Causes.*—These it is impossible to enumerate. Medical philosophers have not yet decided upon what shall be deemed the essential cause of the yellow fever. The large majority of them, however, concur in rejecting contagion and importation from the East Indies, as the original cause. It arises anew among every concourse of new comers, where no previous case exists to warrant the suspicion of its personal communication. It has even originated on ship board, before vessels have reached land.

It is to be distinguished most carefully from the bilious remittent fever, which affects natives and seasoned residents as well as strangers, which occurs only in low marshy or clayey ground, and after abundant rains, and which occurs oftener than once, nay, sometimes every year, in the same individual.

Strangers need never fear the effects of contagion. But if they observe yellow fever breaking out among new comers, it would be well for them to change their residence.

*Treatment.*—This is the most difficult and least satisfactory part of the subject. A severe attack of yellow fever is seldom recovered from. Three, five, or seven days, in general witness its fatal termination. And if relief is to be given in any case it must be done in the first twenty-four or thirty six hours. Beyond this period nature may sometimes struggle successfully against the force of the disease; but there are fearful odds against her triumph. This consideration is not to be allowed to favour inactivity or neglect. The moment there is room for apprehension, medical advice should be resorted to. And where this is not to be had, the following plan is to be pursued: At the first onset of the disease, let the patient immerse his feet in warm water, drink plentifully of weak teas, which favour perspiration, and of which there is no deficiency in all the West India Islands, and let him take the following powder, mixed in syrup or molasses:

R Calomel, gr. xv.

Jalap. gr. xx.

Cream of Tartar, g. xx.

Mix—

If the bowels have previously been very costive, let a domestic injection be administered, made so as to act very powerfully. Should the above powder fail to act, it may be repeated; and if the stomach be not much disordered as yet, an ounce of epsom salts may be given to expedite the above action. When the bowels are once opened, they should be kept in that condition by an occasional repetition of the above dose, or by a solution of cream tartar. If the excitement be very great, the pulse full and hard, and the pain in the head severe, a large bleeding from the arm, and cups to the temples, will prove decidedly beneficial. *These means early resorted to, have often cut short the disease*, as the author well knows. If any delay has taken place, and the stomach be already very much disordered, the case is not so promising. In this case, neither the above powders nor salts will remain on the stomach. To allay the heat about the head, let it be shaved, and cloths dipped in cold vinegar and water kept constantly wet to it. Let leeches be applied to the pit of the stomach, and the feet immersed in very hot water. The following pills will then be administered:

Take of Calomel, gr. xxiv.

Rhubarb, gr. xxx.

Opium, gr. iv.

Mix with syrup into eight or ten pills and of these let two or three be taken every two hours until they operate. Their effect may be assisted by injections as before. Six or eight copious evacuations should be procured within as many hours.