

of the Advisory Committee of the Chamber of Commerce regarding the general subject of disinfection. As to more specific information, it seems to me that this may be best obtained by reference to the literature upon the subject to be found in the medical libraries of this city and elsewhere.

Very truly yours,

"ALLAN MCLANE HAMILTON, *Secretary.*"

"110 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK,

September 30, 1892.

"ALLAN MCLANE HAMILTON, M.D.,

*Secretary of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.*

"DEAR SIR: I have to-day received your note of September 29th, in reply to my letters of September 22nd and 27th, asking you to communicate to me the evidence on which your committee based its statement in respect to imported rags. You refer me to the report containing that statement and to 'the literature upon the subject to be found in the medical libraries of this city and elsewhere.' I am greatly disappointed that you have not replied in a more specific manner to my request. I hardly need to remind you that the statements in your report command the respect and credence naturally due the eminent gentlemen of your profession whose names were affixed to it. A statement that cholera can be conveyed in rags has caused great loss, confusion, and embarrassment in the paper-making trade, of which imported rags are an important raw material. The implication that rags are a source of dangerous infection has made their importation difficult and expensive, and has caused great trouble in their transportation to our mills.

"The resulting loss has been very great. That loss would be cheerfully borne were the manufacturers of paper able to convince themselves that it was a sacrifice in the interest of the public health and safety. But not only do they fail to obtain from you, as secretary of the advisory committee, any evidence of danger, but they have important negative evidence to the contrary. In the twenty-ninth annual report of the Chamber of Commerce, pages 32 and 38, you will find a report made by a Committee consisting of Daniel Drake Smith and Constant A. Andrews, appointed to investigate the rules and regulations relative to the disinfection of rags. In that report, made in 1886, the committee state: 'Since 1832 we have had several visitations of cholera, and never had any regulations, so far as known to your committee, for the disinfection of rags. There is no record of any case of cholera during this period traceable to imported rags or any other merchandise.' Dr. Koch is quoted by the committee as saying that at the cholera congresses of Constantinople and Vienna, nobody was able to furnish a single instance of the spread of cholera by this mea-

neither was any evidence furnished at the congresses of Berlin and Rome. It is further stated by the committee that in the British Parliament Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. G. Russell, secretary to the Local Government Board, declared that there was no instance on record of rags having conveyed cholera. I may add that the editor of the *Paper Trade Journal* addressed letters of inquiry to every paper mill in the country, and was informed that no case of cholera ever occurred in any of them.

"It is a source of great regret and surprise in the paper-making trade that your committee should have made a statement so positive and so damaging to our interest without having in your possession, as we must infer from your letter of yesterday that you did not have, any evidence that imported rags have ever brought, or are more than any other merchandise likely to bring, into this country the infection of Asiatic cholera.

"I remain very respectfully yours,

"AUGUSTINE SMITH."

#### BROMAMIDE.

CAILLE reports (*New York Med. J.*, February 20th, 1892), a short experience with bromamide, a compound of the aniline group obtained by Fishedick and Koechling, and containing 75 per cent. of bromine ( $C_6H_2Br_3N.H.Br$ ). It is an odorless, tasteless body, occurring in colorless, needle-shaped crystals, insoluble in water, but soluble in sixteen parts of boiling alcohol, in chloroform, ether, and the fixed oils. It melts at  $243^\circ F.$  and volatilizes at  $310^\circ F.$ , without change; it is a very stable compound unaffected by any of the ordinary reagents. Dogs took 30 grains without noticeable effects or any alteration in the blood. In adults 10 to 15 grains produced slowing of the pulse without sweating; children took 1 to 3 grains without untoward symptoms. As to its therapeutic action it was found to reduce temperature in fever from  $1^\circ$  to  $2.5^\circ F.$ , without excessive sweating; it appeared to have no diuretic action and no injurious effect on the digestive tract. Lancing abdominal pains were experienced in several of the cases, but Caille did not think that they could be attributed to the drug. It appears to have a beneficial effect "in a number of cases of neuralgia from various causes," but particulars are not given. It may be given in capsule, wafer, dry upon the tongue, or suspended in a fluid. The dose for adults, as an antipyretic and anti-neuralgic, is 10 to 15 grains several times a day; for children, 1 to 5 grains.—*British Medical Journal.*

Dr. L. Jumon (*Merck's Bulletin*, Aug. 15, 1892), in a clinical paper on PHARYNGEAL HEMORRHAGE, refers to the fact that it is some-