

reports of Dr. A. M. Adams and Dr. J. M. Adams, give some interesting and valuable particulars in regard to a large number of these cases. They form, as it were, a chart of the disease throughout its entire stages, and exhibit at the same time, in a very satisfactory manner, the results of the treatment pursued. The total number of premonitory cases in these tables amounts to 1445, and the total number of cholera cases to 392. Under the former class, examples will be found of nearly every progressive stage of the disease,—from simple diarrhœa without complication to developed cholera,—the cases passing in their progress through important changes by the addition of symptoms increasing in danger, while the mortality is also found to increase in a corresponding ratio. Thus, in 1,113 cases of simple diarrhœa, the deaths were 6, or 0.538 per cent. In 49 cases of bilious purging without vomiting or cramps, there were no deaths, the number no doubt being too small to give such a result. In bilious purging, with vomiting and cramps the cases were 43, and the deaths 3, or about 7 per cent.; of rice-water purging there were 280 cases, and 12 deaths, or about 4 per cent. The addition of other symptoms in this peculiar stage of the disease appears to be attended with a great increase of danger. Out of 108 cases, in which the serous character of the stools was accompanied by vomiting there were no fewer than 42 deaths or nearly 39 per cent., and the addition of cramps to the other symptoms, which occurred in 281 cases, raised the mortality to 149, or 53 per cent. Perhaps no clearer proof could be given of the unity of the disease and its progressive danger.

"The column in the schedules showing the cases that passed from diarrhœa into cholera was not in use from the commencement of the reporting, therefore the exact number cannot be given, but an approximate result has been obtained, and allowing every reasonable latitude for inaccuracies, it is certainly a remarkable fact, and conclusive as to the value of the house to house visitation, that out of 13,089 premonitory cases, reported as having been placed under treatment, only 80 are stated to have passed into cholera."

In one district of Glasgow, out of 596 cases of premonitory diarrhœa which came under treatment, 183 were so far advanced as to have rice-water purging, yet of this whole number only two passed into cholera; or 1 in 298.

Another result of the visitation was to induce great numbers of individuals to apply to the dispensaries that were opened in the several districts for the relief of bowel complaints; 6119 applications are recorded, but there is reason to believe that this number is much below the truth.

#### RAPID REDUCTION OF THE FATALITY OF THE EPIDEMIC.

Another most important result was, that the numbers in the column for developed cases progressively diminished while those in the column for premonitory cases continued steadily to go on, and sometimes even increased. This was exemplified, perhaps, in a more striking manner in the smaller towns in Scotland; but it was not the less real in the large population of Glasgow. At Coatbridge, for example, containing a population of 4000 souls, 3314 were found affected with premonitory diarrhœa, 665 of which had advanced so near the developed stage as to be affected with rice-water purging, vomiting, and cramps, while the total number of cholera cases amounted only to 164, so that the whole population of this place, with the exception of 686 persons, exhibited unequivocal symptoms of being under the influence of the epidemic, and the numbers discovered in the premonitory stage were upwards of 20 times greater than those that ultimately passed into the developed stage; so few having passed into this stage because prompt treatment arrested the progress of the malady, and succeeded in stopping by far the greater part even of the 665 cases that were already so far advanced as to have rice-water purging, vo-

miting, and cramps. A similar result was obtained at Carnbrae, a village near Coatbridge, consisting of a population of 1200 souls, where the entire village, with the exception of 100 persons, was affected; where, out of 60 cases of diarrhœa discovered by the first visitation, 55 were found to have rice-water stools, and where, out of this small population, 71 persons died within the first fortnight. In Dumfries, the visitors on the first days of their inspection were overwhelmed with cholera cases; next they discovered the cholera cases early, and treated them promptly; then instead of cholera they found rice-water diarrhœa, and in a few days the cholera cases, as has been stated, fell from 38 to none; while at the same time from 20 to 30 new choleraic affections continued to occur. Dr. Sutherland calls attention to the important fact that this change was found to take place in the districts visited, while in those that were unvisited developed cholera went on, and in a large proportion. A similar occurrence was observed in the district of Charlestown, in the town of Paisley. Here a circumscribed population was placed under the visitation system, when the cholera cases amounted to 23 daily; in the course of four days after the visitation was in operation the cases dropped to three, and in a few days more the epidemic disappeared, whilst it went on in other districts.

"Had it been possible," says Dr. Sutherland, "to place the whole population of Glasgow under preventive measures, as was done in the affected districts of Dumfries and Paisley, as speedy a change might have been observed in the statistics of the epidemic. The regulations of the General Board of Health were specially directed against the disease, as occurred among the necessitous classes, but cholera prevailed almost universally over the whole city, and assumed a character more purely epidemic and less local than it has done in any other part of the country. It selected its victims from all classes, the wealthiest as well as the poorest, and it carried off not a few of the better portion of the working-classes whose cases were treated by their own medical advisers.

"As, therefore, the visitation could be extended only to a comparatively small portion of the affected population, no rapid transference from the cholera to the premonitory column of the schedule could be expected. Persons in the receipt of wages, and not requiring casual aid, could not, with justice, be made chargeable on the parochial authorities any more than the richer portion of the population, although it was generally understood that the line of demarkation should not be rigidly drawn, always bearing in view the fact that the object was to save life.

"In those districts, however, where the population was most under control, as in barony district, No. 1 (Parkhead), the result of the preventive measures was most striking. The enormous amount already adverted to of premonitory cases discovered and treated in this district, proves the efficacy of the inspection under which it was placed, and the result on the cholera was the complete breaking up of the disease, leaving entire days during which all the cases appeared in the premonitory schedule only, to which it was, indeed confined with only a few exceptions during the whole month of February.

"Upon the whole, then, though from the nature of the case the exact amount of good effected by the preventive methods adopted in Glasgow cannot be ascertained, no mind open to the reception of evidence can doubt that much suffering was prevented, and a large amount of human life preserved."

#### TESTIMONIES AS TO EFFICACY OF VISITATION SYSTEM.

Examples are given in the appendix of the testimony borne by the medical superintendents of the several districts, from their own personal observation, as to the efficacy of this