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ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

ART. X.—*Remarks on the Use of Ice and Cold Water in the Collapse of Cholera.* By J. M. GRANT, M.D., Surgeon 54th Regiment.

Will you allow me to make a few remarks through the medium of your Journal on a letter which I have just read in the Kingston Daily News of yesterday's date, on the subject of the saline treatment of Cholera. The letter in question was addressed to the editor of the London Medical Times, in October 1849, by Dr. Mair of this town, and is now republished by that gentleman in the Daily News, for the guidance of the Canadian public.

The saline treatment of Cholera, in all its possible modifications, and the theory on which it is based, viz., the supply of deficient salts to the blood, either immediately by injection, or more remotely by absorption, are both familiar to the profession; but the mode of treatment more particularly recommended in Dr. Mair's letter, is one with which I am not so familiar, viz., the application of ice and cold water externally, and the internal exhibition of the same remedies—"a light covering only being thrown over the body," and the use of spirits, wine, or hot drinks, being, as a general rule, "interdicted."

With reference to this plan of treatment, Dr. Mair observes:—"I have treated cases of collapse very much on the principle of frost-bite, and I have had no cause to exchange cold for hot applications." Dr. Mair has evidently fallen into the popular, but very natural error of supposing that *because snow is applied*, the principle on which frost-bite is treated is that of applying *cold*; but that this is a mistake it needs only a moment's reflection to convince us. Frost-bite generally occurs at a temperature below freezing, or even below zero. Let us suppose a part to become frost-bitten at a temperature of ten degrees below zero, it will be at once apparent that when we apply snow or ice at a temperature of thirty-two degrees to that part, we apply not *cold* but *warmth*, the application having an *excess of temperature over the chill*, or the absorption that