

common cholera, or cholera morbus, (which is common to every country and every clime,) with Asiatic cholera; and which Kennedy most properly calls "the contagious cholera,"

So identical are the symptoms and characteristics of these two distinct varieties of diseased action, having a common name, and in malignant cases, a common termination—a sudden and hideous death, that it is extremely difficult, if not impossible, to diagnose accurately and at once between them, unless you accept the doctrine of contagion.

Common cholera or cholera morbus *never* becomes epidemic, but consists of isolated cases, often of very malignant type, and occasionally resulting in death; whereas the Indian or Asiatic variety being once sown, spreads from person to person, and from place to place; exactly in proportion to the nature of the intercommunication between the sick and healthy, the extent and character of the exposure to the disease, and the susceptibility of the persons exposed. Wherever the pestilence has appeared in point of time, to have been communicated from a continent to an island, or from an island to a continent, or from one continent to another, or from one part of a country to another, the same strong evidence of contagion or infection is still developed, as first marked its progress throughout India, and the Indian Ocean. In England it first appeared at a seaport town which had frequent intercourse with the Baltic, and on this continent it first appeared at Quebec, which had maintained frequent intercourse with the three kingdoms, as I will show hereafter.

A definition of the meaning intended to be conveyed by the term contagious is essential to the proper understanding of this subject, no less to the pathologist than the physiologist. The latter, sticking for the literal meaning of the derivative of *con* and *tungo*, insists on absolute contact to propagate disease. This is not the sense in which the term ought to be used in reference to Asiatic cholera. On that account, it is that I have used the term infectious in preference to contagious, the disease being transmissible from individual to individual through the medium of the atmosphere at a very limited distance,—say a few feet,—without personal contact. Now, although contagion comprehends infection in the general acceptation of the term, and signifies the transmission of disease from one person to another, by direct or indirect contact, I generally apply the term infection to Asiatic cholera, because the disease is reproduced and communicated by the approximation of persons or effects tainted, poisoned or infected, by the pestilence *without actual contact*.

"Kennedy," in the preface to his admirable work on the History of the Contagious Cholera remarks on this subject,—The variety of