

tonorum. If an attempt had been made in this manner, to relieve the stricture which here occurred, the operation could have been performed with facility, but in all probability additional fuel would have been added to the inflammation which already existed, and the fatal issue have been in no way changed.

It is difficult to conceive upon what grounds the diagnosis of cholera could have been made in this case. The symptoms enumerated are all so pathognomonic of a fatal attack of ileus; the unusual season of the year, the thermometer was  $20^{\circ}$ . above freezing. On the day of the seizure, the absence of the usual premonitory symptoms, viz: the diarrhoea and the characteristic rice water stools, the bilious vomiting, the retention of the voice, and mental faculties, to the moment almost of decease, and the proper secretion of urine are all directly contradictory to such a supposition. The lesson inculcated here is a useful one, and adds one proof more to the many which we already possess of the hesitation which we ought to exercise of giving a positive opinion as to the cause of death in any case, unless we have good grounds of doing so. It is to be regretted that so much useful information is lost to the profession, through the neglect of a more general performance of post-mortem examinations. It would have been more judicious on the part of the medical gentlemen who saw this case had they exercised that interest in the matter which they would wish us to think they possessed, in every thing connected with the profession which they practice, and first satisfied themselves by a necroscopic examination, as to the real nature of the lesion before they frightened any individual in the neighbourhood by declaring that cholera of a malignant type had made its appearance amongst them.

I am aware that many medical men in this section of the Province, never think of examining their fatal cases so firmly convinced are they of the inutility of asking for leave to do so. I can only testify to my own experience, having rarely failed to obtain permission, a little gentle persuasion, and mild perseverance, in most instances, will overcome all the scruples of either family or friends, the public mind would soon become accustomed to the idea of post-mortem examinations, were the profession to keep them more constantly before it, and make them, as in the mother country, the rule, and not the exception.