

Dr. ALLEN BAINES—My friend, Dr. M., had an attack of this form of disease—a very bad attack. He had not been taking any water but what had been boiled. He went to the trouble of analyzing the water. He found out after it had been boiled that there was no organic matter, but there was an excessive amount of chlorides. He attributed the attack to this condition of the water. I would like to say that in two of my cases the patients had recovered from the attack, and after three weeks they had it again. One had three attacks. This would seem to lend weight to the view that the cause might be due to the excessive chlorides: for, in each case, the patients resumed the drinking of the boiled water.

Dr. Graham thought that, although the boiling might destroy the bacteria, it did not destroy the toxins. These in the boiled water might have something to do in the causation of the disease. There was one point in this connection interesting to note, and that was, in many cases he had heard of, as soon as the families ceased to use the city water, the disease diminished very much. This would show that the city water was an element in its causation. A good many of the cases were simply cases of winter diarrhoea. They were like those cases which one sees after a prolonged period of hot weather. The speaker had seen a post mortem on one of these cases a short time ago. The conditions were different from any that he had ever seen before. The contents of the intestines were found in the peritoneal cavity. There was a marked enteritis. There were a number of ulcerations of the solitary glands, but no disease of "Peyer's patches." It was not, therefore, a case of ordinary typhoid. The mesenteric glands were somewhat enlarged.

Dr. KING—I had a letter from a patient of mine who suffered from cholera before leaving the city. She had had another attack when in Picton. She said the disease was prevalent in that region. The trouble appeared to me to be due to the condition of the water. The treatment that gave me the best results has been calomel and salol.

Dr. W. H. B. AIKINS—Dr. Macdonald says that the disease may be a manifestation of la grippe, and I am rather inclined to take a similar view. In three of my cases the symptoms were:

chills, headache, elevation of temperature, with a certain amount of coryza and bronchial disturbance, followed in a day or two by vomiting and violent purging. Prior to seeing these cases, I was under the impression that the epidemic was due to the city water alone, but as none of these patients had taken any of the city water, I came to the conclusion that these, at all events, were genuine cases of la grippe.

Dr. TEMPLE—I had not attributed the cause to the city water. I think it is atmospheric. I have one lady convalescing from a very severe attack. I made inquiries about the water. She very rarely drank any, usually taking milk, wine or porter. I have called it catarrhal diarrhoea. In treatment, I have used large doses of camphor and small doses of opium, and had very good results.

In closing the discussion, Dr. Burns said: The reason I asked the questions I did were—first, on account of the new word cholera. I took the trouble to look up the subject of cholera in the hand-book of medical science. There are three varieties: first, the simple cholera; second, cholera acuta or grave; third, cholera foudroyant. Cholera is cholera of a mild type, appearing especially at the beginning of an epidemic. The French writers lay a great deal of stress on this form, because it is often the precursor of the more malignant variety; and as we know that epidemics travel in cycles, and that cholera exists in Europe at the present time, I would like to have elicited from the members whether they thought this is significant of what we may look for hereafter. My own experience accords with that expressed, that in the majority of instances patients did not drink city water, or, if so, only after it was filtered and boiled.

LONDON MEDICAL SOCIETY.

A meeting of the London Medical Society was held in the Lecture Hall of the Medical College on Monday evening, February 13, 1893, the President, Dr. Hodge, in the chair.

Applications for membership were made for Drs. McLaren and Eede.

Dr. Gardiner was then called on to read his paper on the