

ART XXII.—*Remarks on Vomiting as a sign of Cholera.* By HECTOR PELTIER, M.D., Edinburgh; Physician Hotel Dieu; Lecturer Inst. Med. Montreal School of Medicine.

Numerous observations have been made on that fatal scourge, Cholera; therefore I hasten to inform my readers that it is not an ex-Professor's treatise which I am undertaking to write.

I wish simply to call the attention of the profession to a symptom which, according to popular belief and medical knowledge, in connection with rice water stools, contributed to establish a true case of cholera. I mean vomiting.

I shall advert to it presently. Of the causes of cholera, we know nothing, besides its being a poison contaminating the atmosphere; how? where from? and by what means? we are truly at a loss.

The symptoms are perfectly well known.

The treatment, the true one, is yet wanting. I am aware of the innumerable drugs which have been, each in its turn, proclaimed as the best. Take up the London Lancet and the Gazette des Hôpitaux for the past twelve months, and there you will find so much about the different treatments recommended, that an honest and well-educated practitioner will not cling to one treatment in particular, but will try every one, after giving each a fair trial. There are respectable physicians in this city who, for what motive no one can tell, boast of their complete success with one particular medicine. Now, I have, like all other practitioners, had unfortunately a very great number of fellow-beings under my care during the epidemic of 1849, and during its last visit this summer. As a medical journal, according to my views, is not got up purposely to insert the successes of its contributors, but also the unsuccessful cases which happen in practice, I consider it my duty to give here the conclusion I have come to, and I believe that every true physician will be convinced. In my practice I have lost more than half of my cholera cases, and that after a diversified treatment. The other half have cured themselves alone, for the same treatment had been employed in both.

It would take too much place were I to give you all the different prescriptions used.

Most of physicians can tell that there were cases cured without any aid. I must be well understood; I am speaking only of genuine cases. As for promonitory symptoms, here physicians render a most unequivocal service in giving proper treatment. But I repudiate, as an evil and as a commercial speculation, in common with most of physicians, those preventatives which were sold in such quantities by druggists, and, I regret to say, by a few well-known physicians.

After these cursory remarks, I will bring my readers to the symptom