

'I would call your attention in reference to the mortality in Montreal, to the remarks contained in my reply to your fourth query, in which I have stated that from the alarm that existed during the first days, many cases had been reported as cholera; which never would have become so, even had they been let alone. The total number of cases reported in the first week, I sincerely believe to have been greatly exaggerated from this cause, and from the want of discrimination in not distinguishing real cholera from symptoms purely the effect of agitation and fear. That I am not wrong in this assumption will appear evident to you by inspecting the table of cases and deaths. During the first week the deaths were only 261 to 1709 cases, or between one-sixth and one-seventh. During the second, there were 632 deaths to 1580 cases, or between one-half and one-third; and the deaths subsequently always bore a very large proportion to the cases reported, and frequently exceeded them. With this deduction, which I conceive perfectly justifiable, from the total number of cases, the amount of deaths from cholera will approach the frightful sum of nearly every second person attacked. In mitigation, however, it will be necessary to bear in mind that a large number of cases were not reported at all, being abandoned to Nature alone, or seen only by irregular practitioners who did not dare to report. It is impossible to arrive at more than an approach to accuracy, in giving a statement of the number attacked and of the mortality; nor can even the registers of the interments be depended on, for many cases would, from the ignorance of the attendants, be deemed cholera which were not; and moreover as coffins were furnished gratis to the poor, who died of the disease, this produced a motive to falsify the nature of the disease, which must have been of considerable force among a moneyless set of people. On the other hand, as the regulations of the Board of Health, and of the Catholic Clergy, forbade the keeping of bodies dead of cholera beyond a few hours, and denied them admission into the churches for the purpose of having the regular services for the dead performed over them, this was a strong motive with affectionate friends to assert the non-existence of cholera in any particular individual; added to which, a certain dislike to have it supposed that a friend had taken the cholera was very evident.

'Whether these different motives were sufficient to counterbalance each other, cannot be known, and there must always remain a degree of doubt as to the accuracy of the statements promulgated of the number of cases and of deaths from cholera.

'The last census (of 1831) gave as the population of Montreal city, 27,297; parish, 31,783. To these must be added the emigrants forced to sojourn among us for many weeks, the number of whom can be only conjectural.'

Some other interesting details are contained in Dr. Holmes's reply to my inquiries; but it is not improbable that the limits of your Journal may oblige you to exclude a part of what I have here communicated.

Respectfully yours,

MARTYN PAINE.

New York, Feb. 11, 1833.

#### ON THE TREATMENT OF TETANUS BY LIQUOR POTASSÆ.

By JOSEPH REID, M. D.

Having lately had under my care a case of tetanus, in which the treatment I adopted proved successful, and feeling that another opportunity may not offer in my practice to test more fully the effects of the same remedy in the same disease, I am anxious that other practitioners may be induced, from a short statement of the case, to try that which I found in this instance to be so highly efficacious. I regret much that I did not take daily notes of the case; but the following brief report will, I trust, be sufficient evidence of the practice and its results.

Mr. S—, aged thirty, of active habits, delicate constitution, and possessing a nervous temperament came under my care June 1, 1860. States that a few days since he was exposed to a cold easterly wind for some hours when driving in an open vehicle;