

REVIEWS AND BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

I.—*On the mode of Communication of Cholera.* By JOHN SNOW, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, Fellow of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, Fellow and Vice-President of the Royal Medical Society of London. Second edition, much enlarged, pp. 162. London: John Churchill.

Four times has the Cholera scourge, starting from its cradle in the East, visited the nations of Europe and America, carrying death and desolation to the hearths and homes of tens of thousands. Like a destroying angel it has passed over populous countries, densely crowded cities, and scattered villages, its course being marked by the blackened remains of its many victims, and followed by the wail of bereavement and the anguished cry of the heart-broken survivor. Men, on its first invasion of Europe, as they heard of its approach, felt their hearts sink within them, and it need not excite surprise that they fled panic-stricken every whither when it declared its dread presence among them. To see the wife, husband, child, friend, rise in the morning apparently in vigorous health, and ere the shadows of evening had closed in, to have but the cold corpse to look on, the vital current having in the meantime stagnated in the icy grasp of the invisible and relentless foe, was surely enough to make the strongest mind waver. This dread was in a measure to be attributed to the representations which were made in professional and non-professional journals of the day regarding its contagious nature. Indeed, with few exceptions, it was believed to be a highly contagious disease. And this opinion found no more firm supporters than the members of the Board of Health at that time established in England. Notwithstanding, however, the strict quarantine which was enforced in the Continental States, where measures of such a nature are usually more carefully and strictly carried out than in either England or America, Cholera made its appearance in these guarded countries, and pursued a particular course, the same as if there were no obstacles in the way. It over-leaped all barriers, and broke through all *cordon sanitaires*. An important and interesting question arises then:—How and by what means is it propagated, and how does it travel from town to town, and from continent to continent? Two opinions on this subject have for some time divided the medical world. One is, that the disease is communicable from person to person, in other words contagious, and that it would not affect any individual, or appear in any place, if it were possible to completely insulate such individual or place. The second is, that it does not depend, for its transmission, upon any contagious properties which it