

In conclusion, it should not be forgotten that, in many cases, the distension of the bladder has simulated an ovarian cyst, and that the previous use of the catheter is necessary to a diagnosis.—*Jour. de Méd.*

CHOLERA AND IMPORTED RAGS.

NEW YORK, October 25, 1892.

To the Editor of the

New York Medical Journal:

SIR: I send you herewith copies of my correspondence with Dr. Hamilton. You will oblige me very much by publishing as much of it as you think proper.

AUGUSTINE SMITH.

"110 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK,
September 22, 1892.

"ALLAN McLANE HAMILTON, M.D.,

Secretary of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

"DEAR SIR: In the report prepared by your committee, and submitted to the Chamber of Commerce, regarding the quarantine of passengers and the disinfection of merchandise arriving at this port, I find the following statement of opinion:

"A thorough, prolonged, intelligent exposure of rags to live steam, or prolonged boiling, are the only methods known to us by which they may be rendered absolutely safe."

"As a member of the American Paper Manufacturers' Association, and as chairman of a committee appointed at the fifteenth annual meeting of the association, held at Saratoga on the 27th of July last, to submit to the Treasury Department the views of the association regarding the possibility of infectious diseases being brought to this country in imported rags, I am immediately interested in the question concerning which your committee has expressed its opinion. I am also a member of the Chamber of Commerce, in which the matters treated of in your report have recently been discussed.

"The American Paper Manufacturers' Association represents 1,200 paper mills, employing over 100,000 operatives, and having an invested capital of \$50,000,000. The raw material of this industry to a considerable extent consists of rags gathered in foreign countries and imported in bales. The statement I have quoted from your report leaves it to be inferred that your committee regards imported rags as a class of merchandise from which infection is to be feared. In order that the association of which I am a member and the committee of which I am chairman may be enabled to take the proper steps to protect the employees in the paper-making industry from this danger, if such danger exists, I would thank you to communicate to me any evidence your committee may have that the

infection of Asiatic cholera has ever been brought into this country in imported rags, or that any case of the disease has ever been traced to that source.

"I remain respectfully yours,

"AUGUSTINE SMITH."

"110 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK,
September 27, 1892.

"ALLAN McLANE HAMILTON, M.D.,

Secretary of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Chamber of Commerce.

"DEAR SIR: I inclose a letter I have received from Mr. William T. Barker, of Boston, secretary of the Committee of the American Paper Manufacturers' Association, of which I am chairman.

"Mr. Barker desires me to forward to him a copy of your reply to my letter of September 22nd, requesting you to communicate to me any evidence your committee may have that the infection of Asiatic cholera has ever been brought into this country in imported rags, or that any case of the disease has ever been traced to that source."

"I have as yet received no reply to my letter of September 22nd, and beg to remind you that the committee of our association is anxious to receive the information asked for at as early a moment as you can find it convenient to reply to my communication. The American Paper Manufacturers' Association is naturally desirous of full information on this point in order that it may take measures to guard against the danger, if it is shown that any such danger exists. On the other hand, if there is no evidence that imported rags are a source of cholera infection, a statement of that fact will relieve the anxiety of the association and of the public, which has been aroused to some degree by assertions implying that bales of rags were a medium through which Asiatic cholera might enter the country.

"I remain respectfully yours,

"AUGUSTINE SMITH."

"THE AMERICAN PAPER MANUFACTURERS'
ASSOCIATION,

"BOSTON, *September 24, 1892.*

"AUGUSTINE SMITH, ESQ.

"DEAR SIR: Yours of the 23rd at hand, with copy of your letter to Dr. Hamilton. I shall be pleased to receive a copy of his reply; and should you deem a meeting of our committee desirable, I trust you will let me know.

"WILLIAM T. BARKER, *Secretary.*"

"20 EAST TWENTY-NINTH STREET,

"NEW YORK, *September 29, 1892.*

"AUGUSTINE SMITH, ESQ., 110 Nassau Street.

"DEAR SIR: I am in receipt of your communication and, in reply, would refer you to report