

That fell fiend, and until very recently, almost intractable scourge, Asiatic Cholera, first set its deadly foot-print on the American continent at Quebec, in Lower Canada, on the 8th of June, 1832, whence it extended its ravages with the tide of "human travel and human traffic" in every direction, sowing the seeds of misery and ruin, and reaping a fruitful harvest of desolation and death.

I had the honour to submit a plan of Quarantine for Asiatic Cholera, which I originated in 1856, to the resident physician of New York, Lewis A. Sayre, M.D., in the autumn of 1865; of which he says in his annual report, presented 4th January, 1866: "The plan of Quarantine suggested by Dr. Marsden, with some slight modifications, is the most perfect I have yet seen that could be adopted; and I would earnestly recommend the Government to adopt it as a uniformity along the entire coast." That plan which has since received the endorsement and approval of the entire United States of America, including the Surgeon General and Army Medical Staff, and the leading physicians and surgeons of the Union, is declared to be "*the most perfect system of Quarantine yet known*," and is founded on the assumption that Asiatic Cholera is an infectious, portable, and communicable disease, and can be communicated and transmitted, both by persons and personal effects and is therefore a controllable disease.

My opinions on this subject are founded on my own experience and observations, which commenced with the first case of the pestilence that appeared on this continent, and extended over six separate and distinct visitations.

The result of that experience is, an indelible conviction that Asiatic Cholera is not endemic in Europe or America; but is an exotic, having its origin in India, where only *it is endemic* and indigenous, and whence it has constantly been imported into Europe and America by persons and personal effects tainted by its deadly poison; and *that its progress can be arrested by an efficient and uniform system of Quarantine, whether on sea or land, and its infectious properties can be destroyed by proper chemical agents.*

[Since I commenced this paper, the Metropolitan Board of Health of New York, has demonstrated the soundness of my principles; and internal Quarantine, or as it is expressively called "stamping out," has become a *fait accompli*. To Elisha Harris, M.D., Registrar of Vital Statistics, belongs the honour of having been the first to carry this successful practice into operation in America.]

One of the gravest errors into which a physician can fall, and one calculated to lead him into fatal mistakes, is the confounding sporadic or