

Rebivus.

THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC of 1873 in the United States.
Government Printing Office, Washington, 1875.

This volume is a report made by order of the President, in accordance with a joint resolution of the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives. Were the revenues of nations always so beneficially applied, we should hear fewer complaints with regard to their expenditure. The task of reporting fell on Dr. Woodworth, who called to his assistance Dr. E. McClellan, U. S. A., Dr. Peters, of New York, and Dr. J. S. Billings, U. S. A. These, and other authorities, have laid the medical profession, and the public generally, under deep obligations for the valuable evidence collected and the facts which have been arranged. Acting on the advice that "prevention is better than cure," the specific objects sought by this inquiry were, how is Cholera propagated and disseminated? What are the conditions most favorable to its spread? What, up to the present time, has been found the best means of preventing, or arresting, its devastation? And what treatment has been most successful in combating its attacks? The investigation extended to 130 infected localities, and was conducted mainly by correspondence. Amongst those who furnished the facts, we find some of the most eminent medical practitioners in the several districts. The value of the report is enhanced by the introduction of maps, showing the course taken by this terrible epidemic in various countries, and at different periods, together with plans of towns and districts, exhibiting the portions in which the disease raged, and the quarters which enjoyed immunity. The old aerial theory of Cholera transmission is "blown to the winds," whilst its extension by the "diarrhœal-tick, foul clothes, utensils, privies and the food and water contaminated by them," is clearly