

then a youth). He still holds to the non-contagiousness of secondary syphilis, although in a very modified sense from what I had conceived as to his views, and prescribes mercury and iodide potassa as formerly, with iron and generous diet in advanced conditions of disease. He did not seem at all displeased at my mention of his more clear and comprehensive description of the Hunterian chancre than even that by the great master, Hunter himself. He recognizes the Ricordian chancre. Nelaton stands here at the top of surgery. Much renown was added to his already proud distinction with the French by the simple operation by which he, a few years ago, relieved Garibaldi of a minie ball in the foot, after Mr. Spencer Wells, in council with the Italian surgeon, had failed. He attempted crushing stone for Marshal Niel, the Emperor's Secretary of War, a few months ago, and is said to have succeeded; but rumor in medical circles here says the instrument broke in the bladder, and that possibly injuries were sustained thereby. At any rate, the patient died about four to six weeks after the operation—several stones being found on *post mortem* in the bladder.

Maisonneuve is the leading man of the older stamp, who still lectures and walks the hospital wards. He is at Hotel Dieu, operates with coolness and care, and lectures so clearly and well, that although the spoken French is not very familiar to me, still I could understand him quite well. He uses his favorite caustic arrows to a great extent. They are made of wheat flour and chloride of zinc. He makes incisions into the part to be acted upon, and thrusts them in. I saw him employ them thus in a case of cancer of the womb, also cancer of the lower eyelid. In neither case do I suppose any good would follow. Surgery in Paris, and especially at Hotel Dieu, has become pre-eminently conservative; caustics are employed wherever by so doing the knife can be dispensed with, nor do I wonder, for the mortality after operations with the knife is great. Owing, I have no doubt, to bad ventilation, and to the generally unfavorable atmospheric condition of this climate for surgical success. Out of 4 cases of amputations which I noticed in the surgical wards, 3 were suffering from phlegmon. The new building which is rapidly under construction, and will be when completed, one of the largest and best appointed in the world, may obviate some of the difficulties which defeat success in the old.

Chomel, Corvisart, Bouchut, Moissenet, Duprez, Chassaingnac and others of considerable note I must leave for another letter, as this one must close. At the Hospital Loucine, for female syphilitic patients exclusively, 2000 are annually treated—mortality 1 in 27. Here the non-mercurial treatment is carried to a greater extent than anywhere in France, and strange to say, under the direction of Drs. Goupil and M. M. Verneuil, the latter a pupil of Ricord.

REAMY.

### Cholera in India.

The regularity with which epidemic cholera appears season after season in India, is truly lamentable; not only on account of the mortality occasioned by this scourge—and this is terrible,—but because every outbreak of cholera is likewise the

indirect source of much sickness, often of death itself, and always of the gravest discomfort to the troops among whom it appears. The apprehension and anxiety, the hurried movements to cholera camps, the exposure to the effects of an Indian sun, and the occupation of tents at such seasons, are so many causes of physical and mental distress to those who fortunately escape attack.

Up to the latest intelligence, the sickness and mortality resulting from cholera among the British troops in Bengal, during the present season, amounted to 501 cases of cholera and choleraic diarrhoea, with 307 deaths. The disease has spread over a vast extent of territory, and is generally of a virulent character. The disease exists to a greater or less extent at Lucknow, Fyzabad, Jubbulpore, Nowgong, Saugor, Cawnpore, Dinapore, Subathoo, Moolton, Sealkote, Agra, Benares, Jhansie, and Seepre. The 62nd regiment, at Lucknow, has had 65 cases and 42 deaths; and the 7th, 25th, and 103rd Regts. and Royal Artillery at different stations in the presidency, have also suffered to some extent. According to the *Delhi Gazette*, cholera was prevailing in the fortress of Gawlior, and over nearly the whole town of Umritsur, where it was carrying off between 70 and 100 victims daily. Those who know India well will recognise, amongst the list of places we have enumerated, many possessing a bad reputation for unhealthiness. The sanitary measures required are so numerous and important that they will involve an enormous outlay of money and a considerable lapse of time before they can be executed; but there is one subject which seems to us of paramount importance, and it is the water supply. If we are to believe the results of chemical analysis, pure water is a rarity in India, it being generally contaminated with the products of organic decomposition of some kind.—*Lancet*.

### Syphilitic Insanity.

By J. W. HADLOCK, M. D.,  
OF CINCINNATI, O.

That the internal organs often become the seat of syphilitic affections, of the gravest character, is, I believe, no longer seriously doubted. If those who are still disposed to be sceptical on this point will read the paper of Dr. Wilks on "Syphilitic Affections of the Internal Organs," in vol. Ninth, Third Series, of Guy's Hospital Reports, and study the cases he there gives in detail, they will have their scepticism in a great measure, if not entirely, removed, concerning the ravages of syphilis on every tissue of the body. I myself was in attendance on a post mortem, conducted by Professor W. T. Dawson, of this city, where the liver, as well as the glandular system generally, was the seat of very extensive syphilitic disease. And in the *Reporter* for August 7th, I notice a case where the disease attacked the brain, producing insanity and ultimately death of patient. A similar case I have to report.

While engaged in practice at Idaho city, I. T., in May, 1865, Samuel T., aged about 30 years, of good constitution, came to my office to be treated for chancre, situated on the prepuce. The chancre was large and irritable. He otherwise was in good