

ing the immense mass of information (?) published in relation to it, specially, who is the man who can boldly declare what cholera is! The discussion at the London Medical Society upon the subject, which lasted two nights, was I may most truly say, utterly barren in its results, as to eliciting anything new or at all bearing upon the true pathology of the disease. Dr. Snow's doctrine, which is that of swallowing the cholera cells from evacuations of cholera patients, obtained in some unknown way from their bed clothes, &c., was again brought forward by its author. Fancy a person attending the death bed of one ill from cholera, assisting to rub his limbs, and his hands in contact with the fluid evacuations on the bed clothes; suppose this attendant to sit down and eat some bread and butter with his unwashed hands, he must be swallowing the cholera cells upon his bread and butter!!! Yet, though humorous this may appear, it is strictly in accordance with Dr. Snow's theory. Whatever the true theory may be, one thing is quite certain, and that is, as sanitary improvements are effected, in cleansing, draining, purifying and ventilating the alleys, lanes, courts, streets and houses, in different towns and cities, so does the cholera decrease and disappear. Impure air and exhalations which arise from filth appear then to be the principal causes. Next to these impure water, but it is the vitiated air in great measure which renders the water impure. Now if the deaths in London, during the recent epidemic be carefully analysed, the proportion occurring in the low damp grounds of the metropolis, and in filthy, badly drained and miserably ventilated parts of the city, will be found truly enormous and quite in accordance with what has been already stated, as compared with those in comparatively healthy and elevated parts of the city.

The deaths from Saturday the 26th August, the date mentioned in my last letter, to Saturday the 28th October, have been respectively for the 9 weeks, 1287, 2050, 1549, 1284, 754 411, 249, 163, and 66; and in the aggregate 10,596 persons have lost their lives by this disease in 16 weeks, exclusive of diarrhoea which has destroyed 2441, making a total of the 2 diseases of 13,037, about 50 to every 10,000 people. The eruption of 1849 broke out earlier than that of 1854 and destroyed 13,637 of the whole of London, exclusive of diarrhoea. The loss of upwards of 13,000 lives, within a few weeks, in the chief city of the empire, is an appalling fact, demanding the strict investigation which the Board of Health is at present devoting to it. The epidemic has now, I may say, totally subsided, and this week the number of victims will probably not exceed 20 in a population of 2½ millions.

As Dr. Corbetts name was mentioned in my last letter, I shall now merely state that he passed a most creditable examination at the College