

It is well that a general elementary knowledge of the real symptoms of Cholera should be possessed by every member of the community. Generally speaking, then, an attack of Cholera is preceded by a kind of malady called *Cholerine*, which may end, however, without a full development of the disease, but which seems to act ordinarily as its precursor.

The symptoms of *Cholerine*, also called *premonitory symptoms*, are the following, not always, however, to be met with in the same order, nor all at one time, nor the same in every person affected:—Noisy motions in the bowels, pains in the belly, loose evacuations, generally bilious, sense of general uneasiness and weakness, loss of appetite, whiteness of the tongue, sometimes there is headache and very frequently inclination to vomit.

In connection with these symptoms it should be remembered that, in time of Cholera, there is a great disposition to looseness of the bowels, which, if not attended to carefully, is apt to terminate in *Cholerine* as well as *Cholerine* in confirmed Cholera.

When the *premonitory symptoms* are followed by a real attack of Cholera, and when Cholera comes on without it, the progress of the disease is characterized by successive stages, which are respectively designated by some authors by the names of—1st, period of invasion; 2nd, period of state or collapse; 3rd, period of reaction; 4th, period of termination; simply first, second, third and fourth stages.

The period of *invasion* is characterized by several or all the following symptoms: diarrhœa, vomiting, pains in the regions of the stomach, cramps, general diminution of animal heat, coolness of extremities, increasing constricting sensation in the regions of the stomach, anxious expression of countenance, with alteration of the voice very peculiar to the malady, pulse quick and growing weaker and weaker, eyes depressed and sunk in their orbits, livid and contracted appearance of the face, irresistible thirst and desire for cold water and suppression of urine.

The period of *state (or collapse)* is characterized by an increase in the severity of the former symptoms, the skin in general becomes livid and bluish in color and bedewed with cold perspiration, the skin of the fingers assumes the same appearance as those of a drowned person, the pains and cramps increase to agony, the evacuations become of

a whitish fluid, like thin gruel or rice water, they are often passed without the knowledge of the patient, the skin emits a fetid smell, a squalid appearance pervades the whole surface of the body, the breath is colder and colder, the respiration is much labored, a profound prostration of every vital action follows, and death quickly closes the scene; but the intellect remains almost as perfect as in state of health nearly to the last.

The period of *reaction*, when it fortunately occurs, shows the following symptoms: the pulse rises gradually, the blue coloration of the skin disappears with the returning warmth of surface, the respiratory movements become more regular, the voice is by degrees restored to its normal tone, a warm moderate perspiration shows itself on the skin, the countenance is more natural and the face becomes more or less turgid and the eyes somewhat injected. Sometimes the reaction is too violent, and then there is danger of congestion of internal organs, specially of the brain.

The period of *termination* is characterized by a gradual return towards the normal state and by the re-establishment of the urinary and bilious secretions, coupled with the disappearance of the flushed and violent symptoms of reaction. But here again, there is danger of this short convalescence merging into a secondary affection somewhat resembling typhoid fever.

All these symptoms may vary a little in form, they vary a great deal in intensity, and somewhat also in order of succession: they may be all present and well marked in many cases, whilst in others some few symptoms may be absent, or nearly so; but taken several at one time, they are characteristic of *Asiatic Cholera*.

Death may happen at any one of these four periods, but most generally takes place in the second stage.

The fatal termination of the disease, as well as recovery from it, may be determined in a few hours, and may be delayed for a few days. Deaths have been recorded to have happened after four hours of confirmed Cholera, and cases of seventy hours of sickness have also been reported; however, such short and long duration are both extremely rare exceptions.

PROPAGATION OF THE DISEASE.

At the present time, Cholera is on its sixth general tour. It appears to have left Asia for the West with the Mahometan pilgrims of Mecca last year; then, after