

Query X.—What benefit has arisen from the transfusion of salt and water?—what from bloodletting?—what from calomel?—what from opium?—what from camphor?—and what from internal stimulants after asphyxia?

Answer.—‘Regarding these questions as having reference only to the stage of collapse, I would refer you to the enclosed statements published by Dr. Stevenson and myself in relation to the effects of transfusion. Of the six patients therein enumerated, five died. The most interesting of these cases, Mrs. T., lived eight days, but finally expired with symptoms of oppressed brain. Subsequent experience in six or seven more cases has not proved the method beneficial, notwithstanding the astonishing effects produced by it in the first instance. None of these cases survived many hours; and out of the twelve or thirteen cases, in which I was concerned, but one is now alive. Transfusion has been tried by other practitioners in this city, with the same wonderful appearances of amendment, but the same fatal termination in all the cases. I have understood that similar results attended its use in Quebec.

‘*Bloodletting*.—In the stage of collapse I found venesection neither to do good nor harm, for the simple reason that no blood, or a very small quantity only could be obtained. In the cases in which I tried it where collapse was only setting in, I invariably found it hurtful, and consider it beneficial only where the circulation is still sufficiently vigorous to allow the blood to flow with some force. Whenever the pulse has begun to flag, I think it does harm; and this is generally the case, when choleraic diarrhoea has continued some time. I recollect one case of diarrhoea without pain, stools extremely frequent and of a watery colour, in which I bled largely, and the patient recovered; though whether other remedies were applied I cannot be sure, as the patient did not return. The blood exhibited in this case as decided a buffy coat as in pleurisy. The cases of cholera in which I have found bloodletting of most utility, were those in which the incursion of the disease was marked with violent cramps or spasms about the præcordia and stomach, and where the patient was seen a short time after the attack.

‘*Calomel* I have tried throughout the whole epidemic; but it was not till after some time, and after I had seen the inutility of other modes, that I came to place my chief reliance on this remedy. I was led to employ calomel nearly to the exclusion of all other remedies, from experience of its benefit in children affected with cholera, in whom under the use of stimulants, I had been uniformly unsuccessful. From this want of success, I was induced to revert to the practice I have followed for several years in infantile cholera—that of giving this medicine in moderate doses, frequently repeated; and finding it of utility, I finally omitted all other means, and increased the doses considerably. From the almost uniform success of this plan in children, when not applied too late, I extended it to adults, and abandoning all fear of its effects in increasing the alvine discharges, I have administered it in large and repeated doses without any corrector. The largest quantity I have given in any one case was three drachms and a half in twenty-four hours; a portion of which, however, was rejected from the stomach. This patient, though not collapsed, yet from his advanced age of seventy-eight years, was considered as past all hope. He has, however, recovered, and the mercurial affection of the mouth has been very trifling.

‘*Opium*.—In collapsed cases I have seen no good effect from this remedy; and though I have frequently given it in small doses to correct the purgative action of calomel, I have become more and more averse to its employment at such times. In more recent cases, to control the vomiting, it may be usefully employed; and as an injection with starch, it may be employed to moderate the diarrhoea, but is only an auxiliary to more efficient means.

‘*Camphor*.—Of this medicine I have made no trial.’

*Stimulants*.—Dr. H. employed the most active of this class of remedies at the irruption of the epidemic; but from their constant failure, and other opportunities of knowledge, he was led to abandon them. In regard to charcoal, which acquired so much