

Official  Dep't.

**MEMORANDUM ON CHOLERA.**

**A**DOPTE**D** by a Medical Conference convened at Ottawa, the Seat of the Government of Canada, by the Honorable the Minister of Agriculture, pursuant to an Order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

**Members of the Conference.**

Dr. MacDonnell—*Chairman*, Dr. Van Cortland, Dr. Hill, Dr. Landry, Dr. Dickson, Dr. Aikins, Dr. Beaubien, Dr. Grant, Dr. Taché—*Reporter*.

It is earnestly hoped that the following short chapters and paragraphs (though containing nothing assumed to be new for persons acquainted with moral, medical and social sciences) will not be without good results, intended specially as they are :

1st. To confirm the public mind against useless and dangerous fears, by showing that the first duty, as well as the better understood interest of every one, is to meet manfully, with a truly devout spirit, the threatening scourge ; 2nd. To diffuse amongst the people a sufficient knowledge of what ought to be done to alleviate the calamity and to guard against errors which are so apt to pervade a community in times of such visitations.

Should everything be followed out that is recommended in this Memorandum and be executed, and should the threatened pestilence not invade Canada, it could never become the subject of the slightest regret, as being so much time and expense uselessly thrown away ; because all the measures are calculated, in every respect, to improve generally the moral, the domestic, and the social habits of our population.

**EXTERNAL CHARACTERS OF CHOLERA.**

Any discourse of a purely scientific nature would be out of place in such a document as this ; but it is of all importance to insert in this Memorandum such information as would render the disease, in its ascertained character and effects, generally understood by members of the community at large : because no one knows to what extent even a small amount of knowledge may become useful in removing painful and dangerous fears or equally perilous feelings of blind security, also in avoiding fatal errors, and thus making in many instances and many ways its possessor ser-

viceable to himself, relatives and fellow-creatures generally.

Cholera is apt to appear in every climate (very few countries, indeed, having escaped its visitation) ; it attacks both sexes, every age, and all conditions of life, the poorest and the wealthiest, the weak and the strong.

Generally, but not always, it appears more fatal where misery, filth and crowding are to be met with, and intemperance and other vices are sure to render its blows more disastrous.

The approach of Cholera is often preceded by contagious, endemic or epidemic diseases and a more than usual prevalence of affections of the stomach and bowels, and oftentimes also by diseases of a disastrous nature attacking domestic animals.

Occasionally the appearance of Cholera seems to have a marked effect either in increasing or diminishing the intensity of other concomitant diseases ; at other times it appears to fail to exercise the slightest effect on them. The experience of Canadian medical practitioners has gone, however, so far to establish that Cholera has generally superseded in a great measure all other diseases.

There are only two circumstances connected with this scourge which seem to observe a determined character of constancy, these are the ratio of mortality to the number of persons attacked, and the influence of continual cold on the duration of the pestilence.

The ratio of mortality almost at all times and in all countries is never below one-third, and sometimes averages from forty to fifty deaths for every one hundred cases of confirmed Cholera. The appearance of the cold season invariably checks the insensibility of the malady in moderate climates, and generally stops it entirely in severe climates. Whether these well asserted facts are of the negative, the dubial or the positive category, it is well that they should be made known to the public, to prepare the minds of all to see things as they are, in time of trial, and to guard against too illusory and hopeful expectations as well as against foolish fears ; for a great many have fallen, and a great many are apt to fall easy victims of Cholera through imprudence and carelessness caused by an optimist view of the state of the matter, as well as through terror and despondency brought on by an exaggerated idea of the existing danger.