

PETTENKOFER ON CHOLERA.

Almost simultaneously with the issue of Mr. Simon's precautions against cholera, Pettenkofer delivered on the same subject a lecture which has just been made public. It is gratifying to note the perfect unanimity with which the English health officer and the German analyst think and write. The disease is not, says Pettenkofer, an infectious one. Depending as it does on conditions of time, place, and of the individual, no one need be afraid of a cholera patient living under the same roof or in association with him. On the contrary, he may render all assistance in his power without risk. Only he must be punctiliously observant of cleanliness in household and in person. Not the state apartments merely, but every corner of the dwelling should be regularly and thoroughly ventilated (he does not believe in air-purifiers), especial regard being had to all sources of air-pollution, water-closets, sinks, conduits for wash-water, and so forth. Genuine foci of miasma are the rooms, the drawers, the baskets in which soiled linen is kept. While the epidemic prevails, all laid-off linen should be at once put in the soap-boiler, allowed to lie there for hours, rinsed in well-water, and dried for later use. As to disinfectants, Pettenkofer is not so reticent as Simon, but recommends green copperas and carbolic acid. Everything that comes from a cholera house or a cholera locality requires especial purification and disinfection, forming as it does the "first line" of the multiplying infection-matter in the dwelling. Linen or cotton stuffs are best purified in the steaming soap-boiler; woollen stuffs, horsehair, and bed-feathers should be boiled in water and then smoked with brimstone. The "second line" of the infecting matter, according to Pettenkofer, concerns the person, and in this respect he is much more explicit than Simon. Soap and water, of course, are essential, but so is constant change of linen, for this may be likened to a "dry bath." While warmth is kept up, transpiration should be free. Flannel swathing of the abdomen and feet, and woollen stockings are the best. Clean beds, pure linen, and good clothing most effectually aid transpiration. The physician must be consulted as to the best means of keeping active the function of the skin, depending as that does on idiosyncrasy. Moderate but sufficient food and drink is the rule; above all, the freshness of both is paramount, pure water being a universal counter agent to cholera and typhus. Against diarrhoea the above-recommended choice of food and clothing is the best protective. Finally, says Pettenkofer, there is no patent medicine or secret antidote to cholera. What are given out as such are a swindle and a snare.

The latest reports from Paris concerning Dr. Nèlaton state that he is so much better that he is able to take a little food, and has gained strength. His nights are better, and Dr. Moutard-Martin's bulletins are generally more hopeful.

Education in India is showing its good effects on the natives in many ways. They are developing a native literature, the centre of which is the University at Lahore, which is intended to impart Western science to the learned of India in an Oriental dress. One of the first and most gratifying fruits of this Eastern renaissance is a well-conducted medical journal.

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