

rivers communicating with the Ottawa below Bytown, amongst whom, and emigrants no connection could have existed. Many of the sufferers died upon the rafts before they reached Grenville.'

Query IV.—Was the cholera preceded by premonitory symptoms, and what were their character and duration?

Answer.—'In the great majority of instances, premonitory symptoms appeared, and perhaps very few cases occurred in which they might not have been detected by close observation. The symptoms which appeared premonitory of an attack were various. A very common form was a sudden feeling of faintness, or sense of depression about the præcordia, or anxiety, attended frequently with coldness of the extremities. Another common feeling was a sensation of stricture in the epigastric region; sometimes with, sometimes without pain. Now and then attacks commenced by cramps in the extremities. Various uneasy feelings in the bowels announced, in other cases, an attack, as sense of fulness, horborygni, feeling as if of diarrhoea supervening, slight pains, &c. These generally resulting in some looseness of the bowels. A sense of sickness and vomiting were sometimes the first symptoms; but by far the most common precursor of an attack of cholera, was diarrhoea. When attacks occurred without previous warning, they might generally be traced to some imprudence on the part of the patient, producing disturbance of the digestive organs.

'In regard to what may be considered really premonitory symptoms of cholera, it deserves consideration, that during the prevalence of the epidemic a variety of anomalous symptoms arise from nervous agitation and fear of the complaint; and some discrimination is required to ascertain whether certain feelings are really part of the disease, for premonitory symptoms must certainly be looked upon as the incipient disease itself.'

Dr. Holmes then very justly adverts to a prevailing error of regarding every affection of the digestive organs, during the epidemic, as premonitory of cholera, or as constituting that disease in its incipient state; but misapprehends the import of some of my own remarks, in my published letter on the subject of 'Premonitory symptoms.' As my opinion, however, is distinctly explained in the letters which were subsequently published, I will now only say, that I never considered any combination of symptoms, in what I regard the local stage of the disease, as indicating conclusively an approaching development of the constitutional affection. Still, the particular combinations to which I specifically alluded, were so frequently antecedent, that when they did exist in that relation I had little doubt of a common predisposing cause in many instances; but that in all cases the disease was 'local till the general development, and that the premonitory symptoms were rather the exciting cause, than an integral part of the constitutional affection.' Very many, if not all, of the symptoms which I denominated 'premonitory' in compliance with common usage, were often found, as at all other times, to occur without any connection with a predisposition to cholera; yet when existing in the combinations which I indicated, they rarely failed, when neglected, to become the exciting cause of the malignant disease.

Query V.—What was your treatment of premonitory symptoms, and were they soon subdued?

To this enquiry Dr. Holmes replies that his treatment was determined by the nature of the symptoms—restraining diarrhoea by moderate quantities of opium, more or less modified by small quantities of ipecac., calomel, camphor, or aromatic spirit of ammonia, and subsequently exhibiting either castor oil, Epsom salts, or tart. potass and rhubarb.

In reply to the latter clause of the query, he says that 'in nearly all cases, the means indicated were sufficient to remove the symptoms in a very short time.'

Query VI.—What were the usual symptoms that distinguished the stage of asphyxia or collapse?

Answer.—'Coldness, more or less marked, of the extremities especially, and frequently of the whole surface; often, though not always, accompanied by a clammy and co-