

In the course of the above remarks, I have purposely abstained from all opinions respecting the operation of contagious miasmata, or the manner of their introduction into the blood, as foreign to the object of the present enquiry; and as chemistry has, hitherto, thrown but feeble light on the nature of their elementary constituents, or the changes they effect on the circulating fluids.

Several important organs undergo a morbid alteration of structure during the progress of this disease; but, as its pathology is unconnected with the question at issue, it need not now engage our attention.

It is generally admitted that Pulmonary Consumption is, according to the common acceptation of the term, an hereditary disease, usually developed by the action of exciting causes. In some countries, it is also deemed contagious; and the houses which have been occupied by persons who die of this complaint, are always left deserted. In New-Brunswick, its occurrence is very frequent; and, though not deemed contagious, it may certainly be pronounced *incurable*. So far, the parallel between it and Leprosy is strictly correct; but surely, it would not be recommended that those persons labouring under Pulmonary Consumption throughout the Province should be torn from their families, and left to die in a Lazaretto; nor can it be imagined that any such measure would be proposed to prevent the continuance of so great a scourge of the human race; as it is sufficiently evident, how fruitless the attempt must be, by the removal of a few, to arrest the progress of a disease whose germ, unhappily, is but too widely spread among mankind, and whose extinction is beyond the reach of legislative power.

During the prevalence of the Asiatic Cholera in Europe, erroneous opinions regarding its contagious character led to the adoption of similar measures of prevention; but experience has since taught us how useless and unnecessary they were, and how injurious to the interests of society; and the novelty of the disease among us, and its still inexplicable nature, afford the only vindication of the course pursued during that period of general consternation. In no part of Europe was Leprosy so prevalent at one time as in France, from the eleventh to the sixteenth century. It is now chiefly confined to the tropical and equatorial regions, being rarely met with in Europe since the seventeenth century; and the advanced and more refined state of society accounts for its gradual disappearance; while greater experience has banished all dread of its supposed contagion, and opened their noble hospitals to the admission of Lepers, without distinction, among other patients; and numerous Lazarettos of great extent have long been converted into retreats for the aged and infirm, or like purposes of general philanthropy and benevolence.