

## OFFICIAL REPORT ON THE CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN FRANCE- IN-1884.

**I**N the *Bulletin de l'Académie de Médecine* and the *Centrallblatt für die Med.-Wiss.*, of February 13, 1886, is the report of Marey, based on the conclusion of the cholera commission, consisting of Pasteur and nine other prominent French physicians. The most vital conclusions arrived at are as follows:

1. In all those districts of France from which answers were obtained from resident physicians, the cholera appears to have been introduced into the single towns from previously infected places; for in three-fourths of all instances considered this mode of propagation was proven, while for the remaining one-fourth it was regarded as highly probable.

2. Considering only the observations as contained in the returned reports, the cholera is to be regarded as infecting more intensely the smaller towns than the more populous centres. It is consequently a serious mistake, during a threatening or actually existing epidemic, to flee from the larger towns to country places.

3. General uncleanness, and the abominable habit of certain classes of people to throw around the human dejections everywhere, is the chief agent of the dissemination of the disease, for during an epidemic the dejections of a person who shows no other morbid symptom than a slight diarrhoea, may contain the causes (*les principes*) of a most serious cholera.

4. The cholera is often propagated by means of water contaminated with the excrements of cholera patients.

5. Stormy and rainy weather is often observed to either precede an outbreak of cholera or intensify its severity. This refers to the contamination of the drinking-water, caused by the dirt being first

dissolved, and subsequently carried away into the various reservoirs of drinking-water.

6. And, as in the larger towns the drinking-water is better guarded and protected than in smaller places, the cholera finds a greater field of propagation in the latter. Some cities, however, which derive their water from brooks, lose the above advantage.

7. In every locality such quarters are most dangerous during an epidemic which lie on low grounds in the neighborhood of the water channels.

8. The disinfection of houses inhabited by infected persons, of excrement, of clothing, and of other suspected articles, is to be conducted strictly according to the instruction of the Comité Consultative d'Hygiène, and is as such an indispensable procedure. It appears as if by this measure the epidemic has been suppressed in its initiatory phase in several instances. But, in order to be thoroughly effective, this disinfection is to be executed with the greatest conscientiousness on the part of physicians, for the appearance of the first pronounced cases, even if belonging only to the light choleric affections, may propagate the disease by contamination of the water.

9. Old and weak people and small children are most predisposed to the cholera infection, though alcoholic indulgence, general and personal uncleanness, are likewise to be regarded as strongly predisposing agents.

10. One attack appears to confer no immunity upon a person, not even for a short time, as during an epidemic of a short duration several relapses were observed.

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### WINTER-TIRE.

**I**T is a curious fact that the farther north we travel the hotter habitually are the interiors of the houses. At first thought it would seem natural that the temperature in which the person lives in the house should approach more closely that of the external air, but a little consideration shows the reasonableness of the habitual action of northern nations.

The man who is exposed all day to a low temperature must produce an enormous amount of caloric in order to meet the demand and keep his body warm. At eventide he naturally seeks rest, not only for wearied mind and muscle, but also for the heat-producing function. It is not always remembered that energy is expended in maintaining bodily temperature,