

THE APPROACH OF CHOLERA.

We fear there is too much reason to apprehend an approaching visitation from this plague. During the winter, and for several months past, it has made its home in the countries bordering on the Upper Elbe and Vistula, in Bohemia, Silesia, Hungary and Galicia. From these districts its seeds appear to have been carried down the Vistula, cases being reported first at Graudenz, in Eastern Prussia, and more recently at Dantzig, to the north, whilst to the south-east also, the pestilence has extended from Hungary, along the course of the Danube, as far down as Rustchuk, in Bulgaria. It has since reached Constantinople, and a number of cases reported from Vienna. This suddenly-increased activity, and the extension of the disease in every direction from its original focus, must naturally lead us to expect its appearance here, and we shall act wisely in making every preparation in our power for the reception of so unwelcome a visitor. It is to be hoped that the local authorities in every parish in the kingdom will be on the alert. Decaying animal and vegetable matter must not be allowed to accumulate in the streets and public places, for though dirt and impurity will not of themselves alone create cholera, they will, at any rate, render those exposed to the influence of the disease, less able to withstand it. Wherever there is a reason to believe that water used for drinking, cooking, or indeed for any other purpose, may possibly be contaminated with sewage—as is the case in many a "smiling village"—its use should, if possible, be avoided. Nor let any one trust to mere filtering, or believe, however sparkling and clear such water may look, that all impurity has been certainly removed from it. Above all, it behoves the authorities to perfect at once all necessary arrangements, so that when the enemy shows himself in our midst, we may be prepared to encounter him without a day's delay. The details of house-to-house visitation cannot be organised in a day; yet there is really no other way of getting at the disease in its secret lairs; and a scheme ought to be prepared by the medical officers of health in concert with the parish boards, so that all the organization necessary may be ready when required.

To the public at large we offer the following advice:—Preserve the strictest cleanliness in your house, and in all your "surroundings," but do not make any great and sudden change in your daily habits. Boil all the water you use, and then pass it through a charcoal or carbon filter, but for the most part live as you have been accustomed to live; not taking a bath more frequently; making little alteration in your diet; taking care that the fruit you eat is sound and wholesome, and keep fairly within the limits of moderation one way or another, in food, drink and exercise. Ripe and sound fruit will do no harm, except there be a tendency to diarrhoea, when it should be avoided. Do not neglect an attack of diarrhoea for an hour. It must be treated at once. If you are conscious of having eaten something indigestible, unripe or over-ripe fruit, anything that commonly disagrees with you: take half an ounce of castor oil, with five or six drops of laudanum, let this operate, and then take at once ten drops of Collis Brown's chlorodyne; repeating it two or three times if necessary, at intervals of two hours. If the purging still continues, and large quantities of fluid still continue to pass, the case is more serious, and you had better seek, without delay, the best medical attention within your reach. In most cases, however, diarrhoea, which uncontrolled might become dangerous, will be checked by these remedies.

An attack of genuine cholera soon brings an extraordinary depression, followed very frequently by collapse. In such cases, if medical assistance is to be had, a person would be unwise, and would be taking upon himself an improper responsibility, if he neglected to obtain it. But in any case we advise that no reliance whatever be placed upon remedies given through the mouth in the collapse of cholera. They are not absorbed; can do no good therefore, and may afterwards, if the patient be so fortunate as to recover, do much harm. We believe that our best chance of bringing about a favorable change is by directing to the skin and to the general nervous system, the stimulants we employ. A mustard bath, a mustard plaster applied to the upper part of the stomach, may be of use; has often, indeed, restored the flagging nervous energy, and we would always employ the plaster, if not the bath, when an anxious expression of face, and much depression of feeling, shows how great is the shock which the attack has produced. Brandy and stimulants of that kind are not merely useless, they are positively harmful. —Medical Notes and Queries.

THE CHIPPING NORTON CASE.

The village of Ascott was the scene of great animation, in consequence of an announcement having been made that each of the sixteen women who were sent to prison by the Rev. W. E. D. Carter for intimidation, would be presented with £5. Towards the latter part of the afternoon, Mr. Arch, president of the Union, and the Rev. Mr. Attenborough, of Leamington, arrived, and were met and cheered at the station by crowds of spectators, among whom were the sixteen women. In the evening a largely-attended meeting was held on the village green, presided over by Mr. Banbury, of Woodstock. The Rev. Mr. Attenborough, amid loud cheering, made the presentation, remarking that the appeal for subscriptions had met with a hearty response. Mr. Arch, in the course of an address, denounced the Criminal Law Amendment Act as most unjust and oppressive; and advocated the extension of the franchise to the laborers. He has been asked to come forward as a candidate at the next general election, but he had no ambition, and did not wish self-aggrandizement. Even if he could go to the House he would not do so at present, as he believed he could do more outside to advance the cause. He concluded by urging the men to remain firm to the Union, and assured them that the country was with them.

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