

Answer.—The exciting causes were all those which produced derangement of the digestive organs, more particularly intemperance or excess in eating. Any other cause producing diarrhoea, as cold, suppressed perspiration, or affections of mind, was also an exciting cause. As to the expediency of eating or abstaining from vegetables or ripe fruits, much must depend on the state of the digestive organs in the individual. As a general rule, I believe it would be right to abstain from them on account of their liability to fermentation, and the consequent production of acidity, flatulence, and other effects of indigestion. Where, however, the digestive organs are in good order, and not previously weakened by excess or former derangement, a moderate use of these articles I should not believe productive of evil.

Query XIII.—How far do you think that local exhalations from filth or other sources, contribute to the intensity of the epidemic poison?

Answer.—The effects of locality in augmenting the deadly effects of the atmospheric influence, have been strongly exemplified in numerous situations. Certain houses have through the whole epidemic been noted for the continual recurrence of cases. A very strong proof of this kind occurred among the troops in garrison in this city. The soldiers were early attacked, and a large number died. Dr. Stewart, the senior medical officer, recommended the removal of the troops out of barracks into tents, pitched on the island of St. Helen's, a fine airy situation opposite the town. No case afterwards occurred for many weeks, and the soldier then attacked had come over to town and become intoxicated. The artillery soldiers, previously stationed on the island, remained free from the disease during the time it raged among the troops of the line in Montreal; and when the latter were removed to the same island, the precautionary measure of keeping the two descriptions of force entirely separate was adopted. No artillery man was allowed to go over to town, except on necessary duties. In consequence, apparently, of these regulations, the artillery remained free from cholera; and only one case occurred among the whole force, in a man, who, without permission, came over, and is known to have visited a house in which a cholera patient was lying ill, and in which also four deaths occurred. He also became intoxicated before he returned to the island. He was confined for his misbehaviour, and the next day he was attacked with cholera and died. Before the troops were removed to the island, the women and children had been sent to the barracks at Laprairie. Several fatal cases having there taken place, they were brought down to St. Helen's, and the disease soon disappeared from among them. I have been favoured by Dr. Stewart with an interesting detail of the circumstances in a letter, a copy of which I transmit.

The following fact is of importance in connection with this subject, and bears an analogy to similar ones that have been published in descriptions of the cholera of India. It is contained in a letter from Charles J. Forbes, Esq., and the following are his own words: "A singular feature presented itself at St. Andrew's, where the mortality was proportionably great with any part of Canada; viz. that all the deaths occurred on the west, and not one on the east side of the North River, notwithstanding that the one is equally populous with the other."

*Dr. Stewart's Letter to Dr. Holmes.*

MY DEAR SIR.—The following memorandum contains some of the leading facts relating to cholera in the garrison here. The disease appeared in the barracks in Montreal on the 12th of June. I arrived at the Hospital about 3 o'clock, A. M. on the 18th. Up to this time the admissions amounted to 75 soldiers, 2 civilians of the ordnance, 7 women and 2 children—in all 86 (the admissions during the 48 hours preceding, amounting to 49).

Various reasons not now to be stated, led to an immediate determination to remove the troops from the barracks in Montreal, and encampment on the island of St. Helen's was finally resolved on. The movement was effected on the 19th, during which day, principally before or while the change was taking place, nine cases were admitted. On the 20th of June, one case, and no other until the arrival of the detachment from